

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## 2015 Operations and 2016 Outlook for Hungry Horse and Como



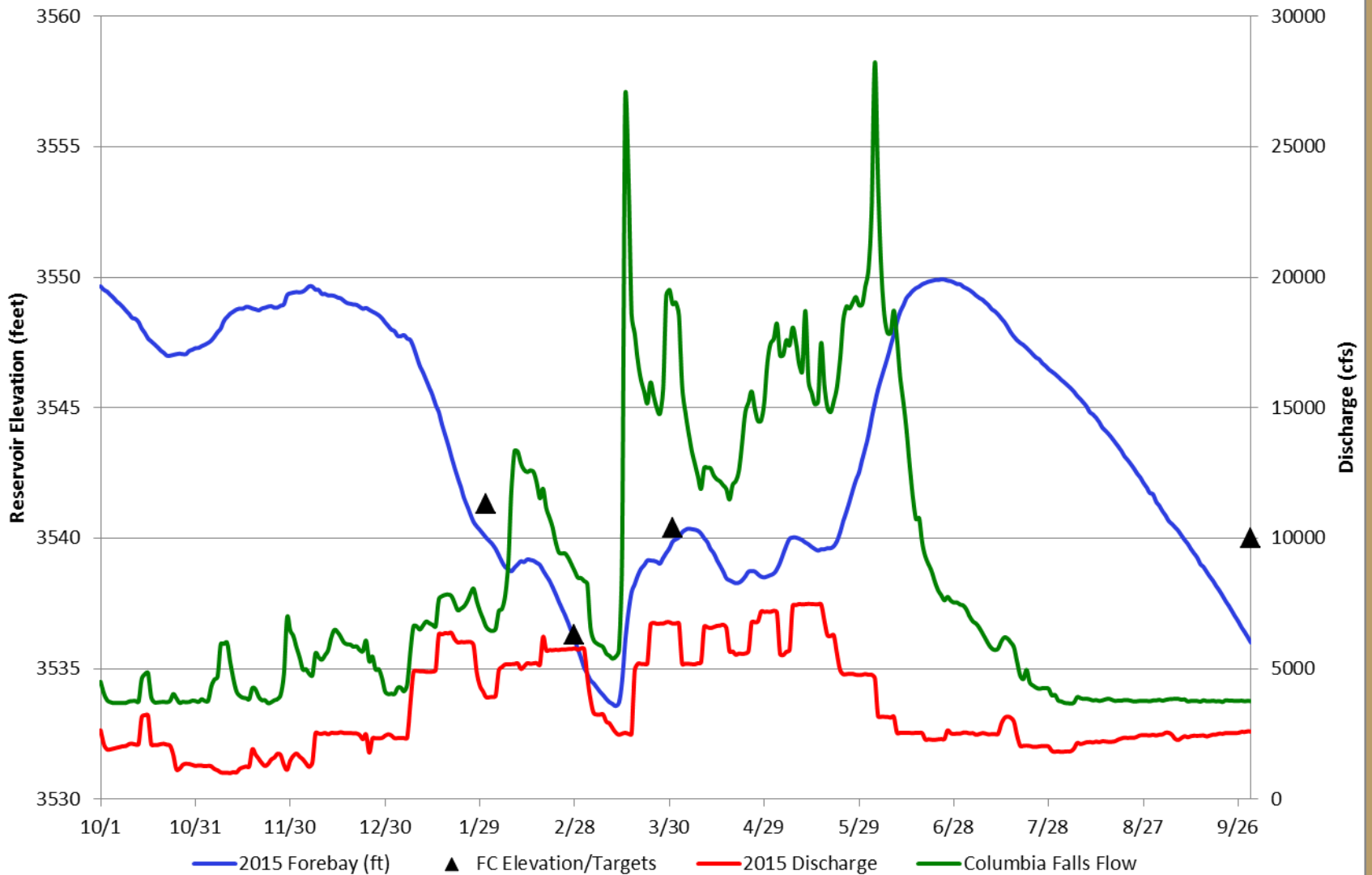
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

# 2015 Runoff

- Hungry Horse Reservoir - Actual April through August runoff was 1,231,660 acre-feet which was 64 percent of the 30-year average.
- After flood control requirements were completed, Hungry Horse filled to 3550 feet (10 feet below full).
- During the summer water was discharged to help meet minimum flow requirements in the Flathead River and was drawn down below the 20 foot requirement at the end of September.

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## Hungry Horse Operations (WY 2015)



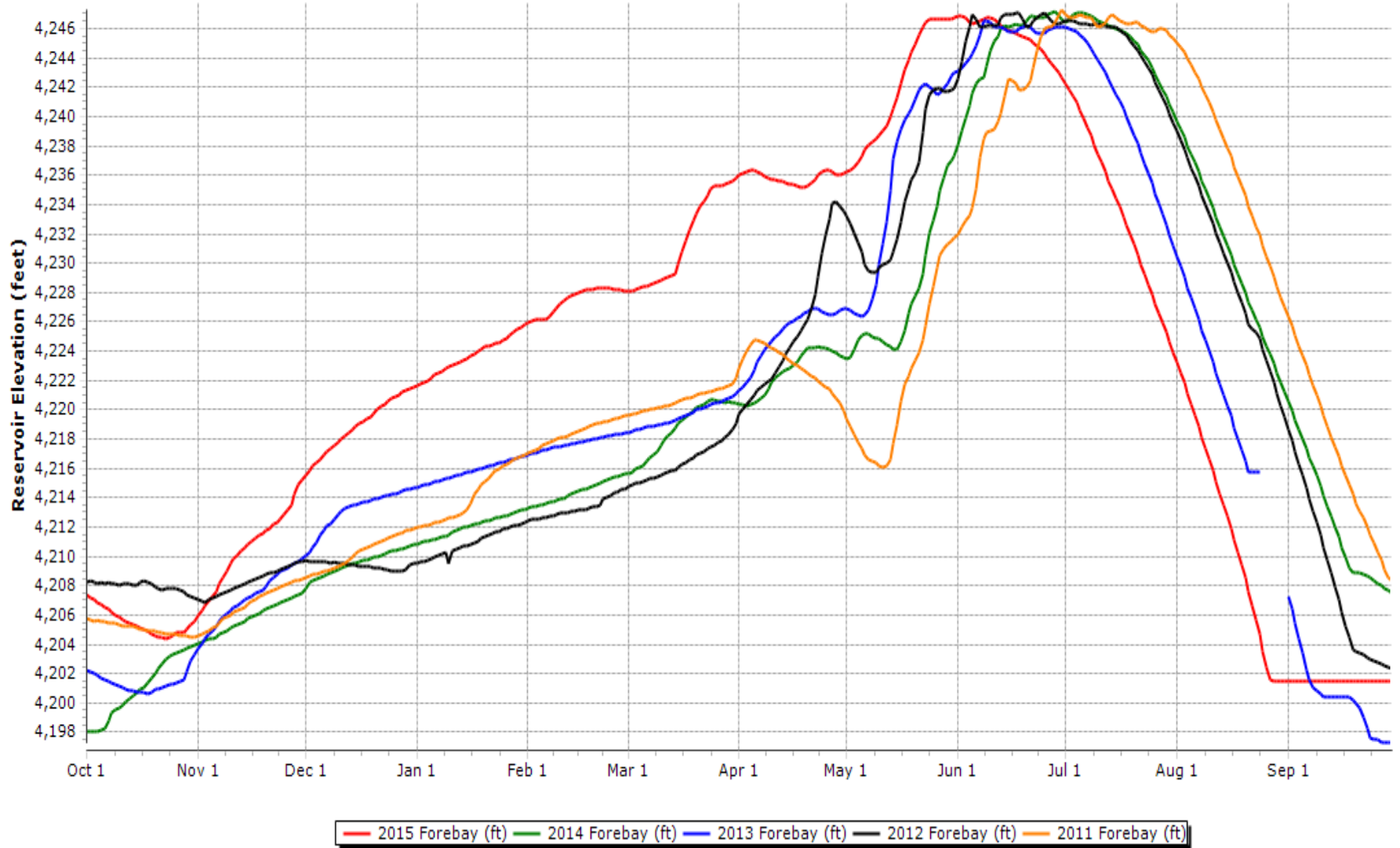
RECLAMATION

# Hungry Horse 2016 Outlook

- NWRFC ESP water supply forecast (issued Oct 13) is around 97% of average for April-July inflow volume into Hungry Horse.
- The first official operating forecast will be released in January 2016.



## Lake Como Elevations 2011-2015



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# Como 2016 Outlook

- As of Oct 14, 2015, Como is at elevation 4201.5 ft which is average for this time of year.
- NWRFC ESP water supply forecast (issued Oct 13) for the Bitterroot near Darby is around 87% of average for April-July runoff volume.

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## River and Reservoir Status Briefing

### RESERVOIR AND RIVER OPERATIONS

Montana Area Office  
Billings  
October 15, 2015



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation



SHERBURNE

105%



TIBER

104%



FRESNO

144%



NELSON

119%



GIBSON

27%



PISHKUN

2%



WILLOW CREEK

95%



CANYON FERRY

94%



CLARK CANYON

74%



Key

Reservoir Name



100%

Reservoir Storage  
Percent of Average (%)

BIGHORN

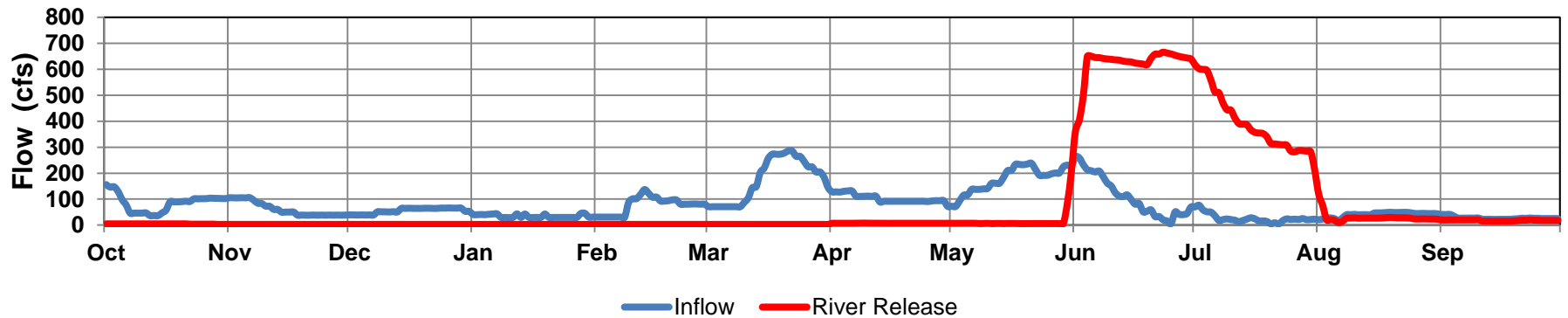
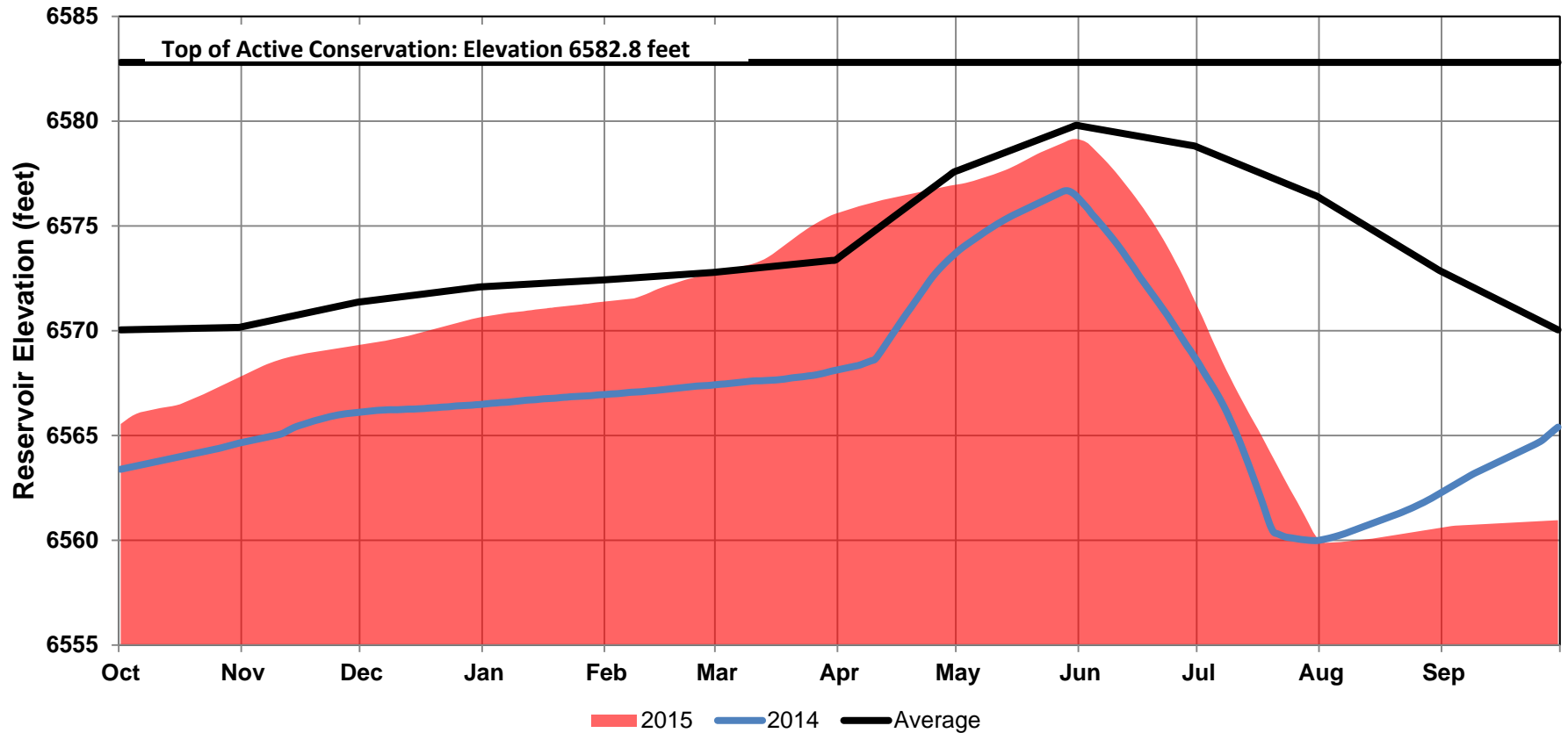
109%



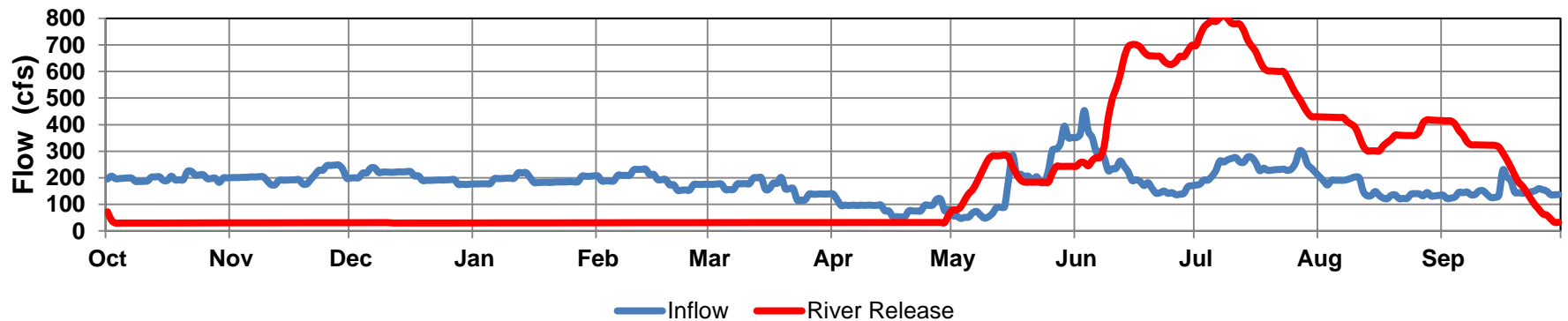
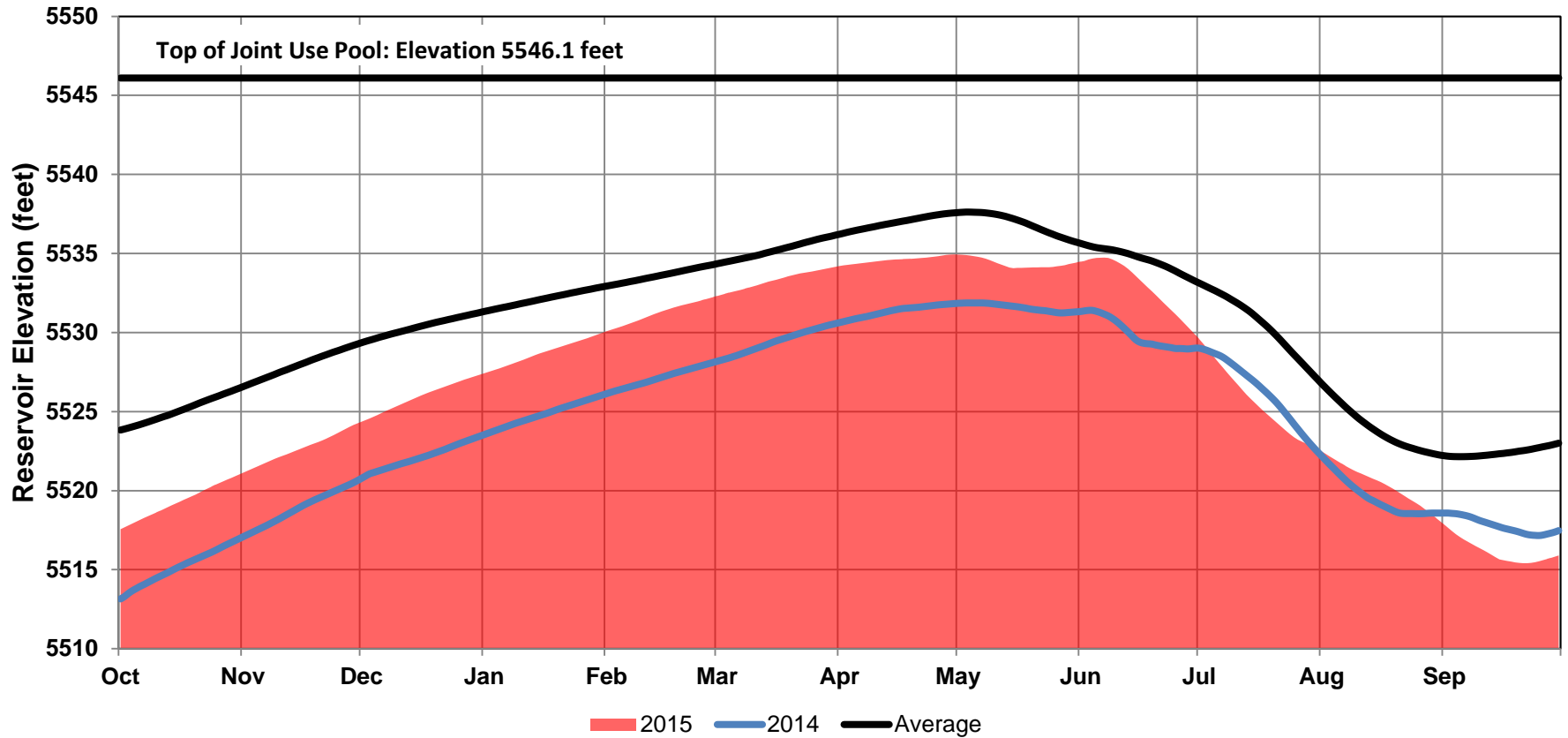
Reclamation: Montana Area Office

Reservoir Storage Status : October 12, 2015

# Lima Reservoir Operations

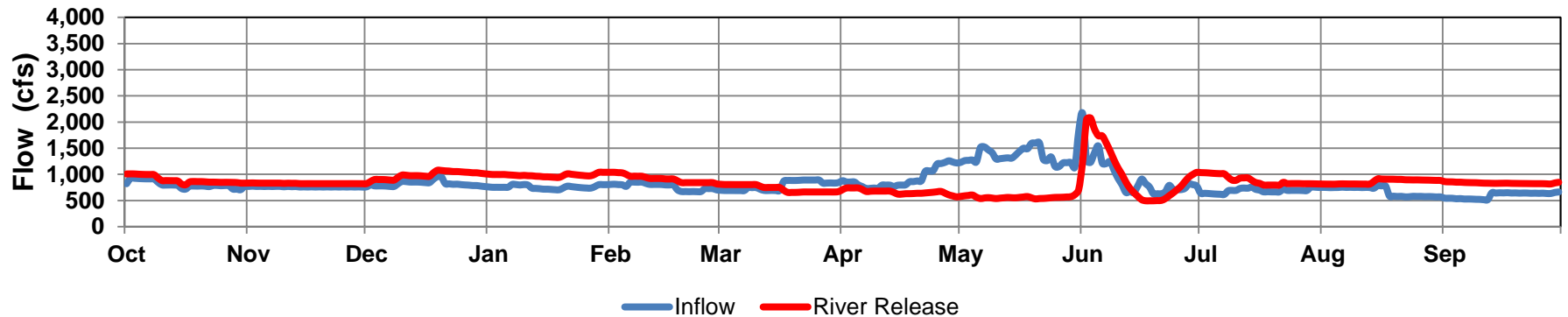
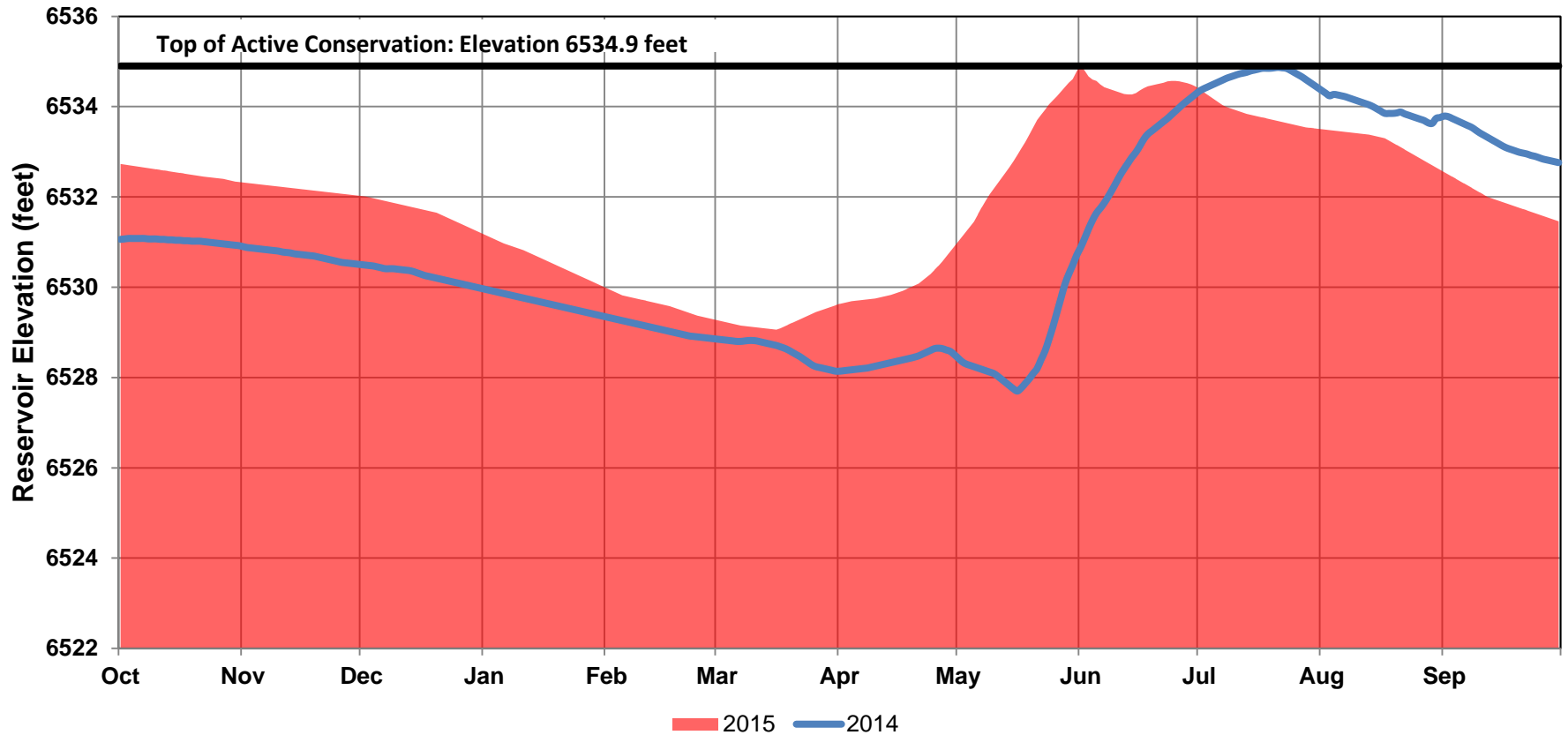


# Clark Canyon Reservoir Operations

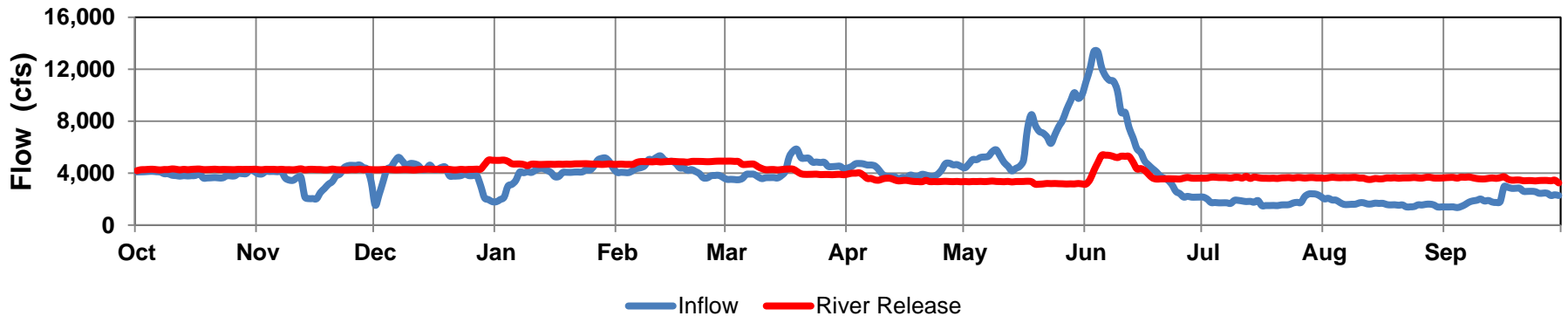
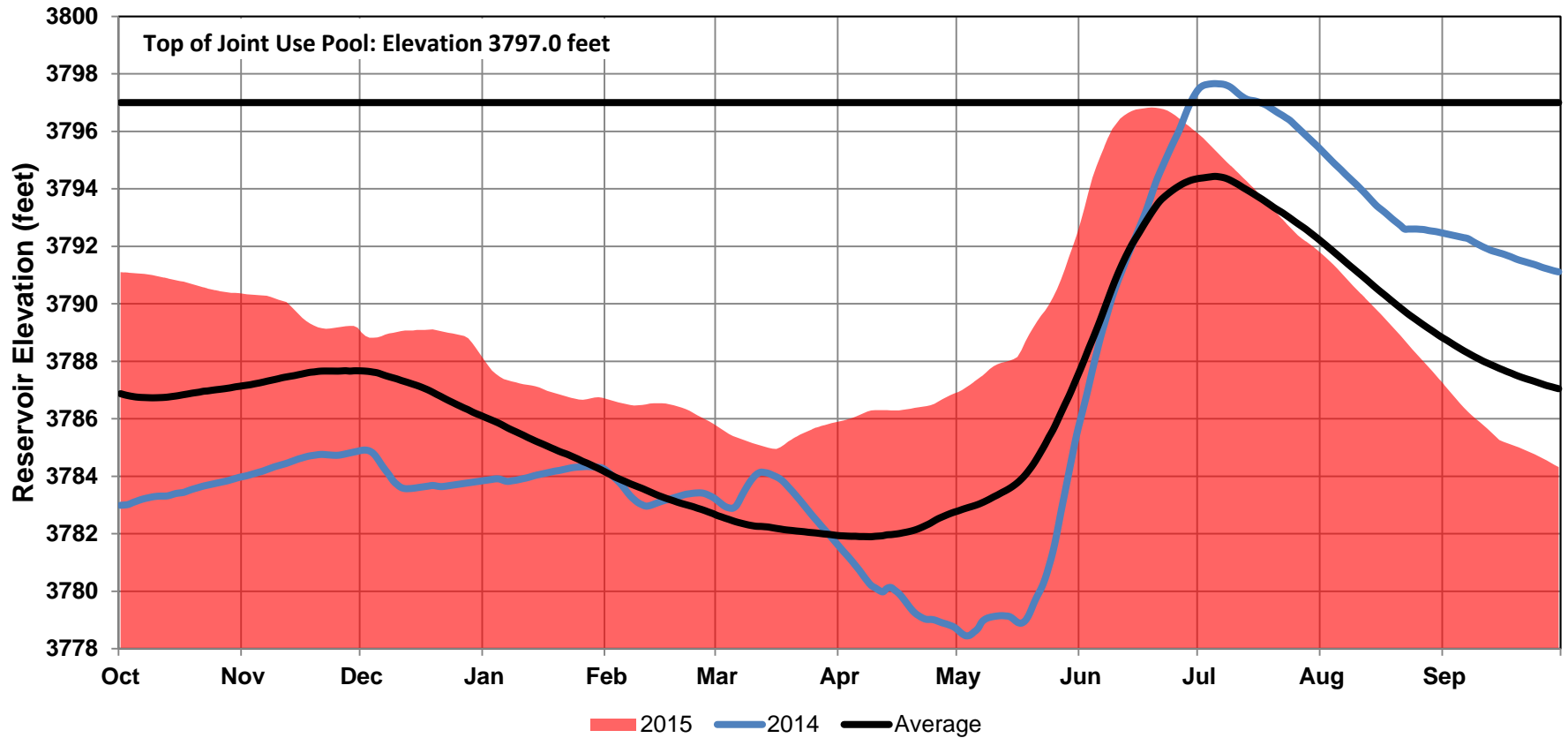




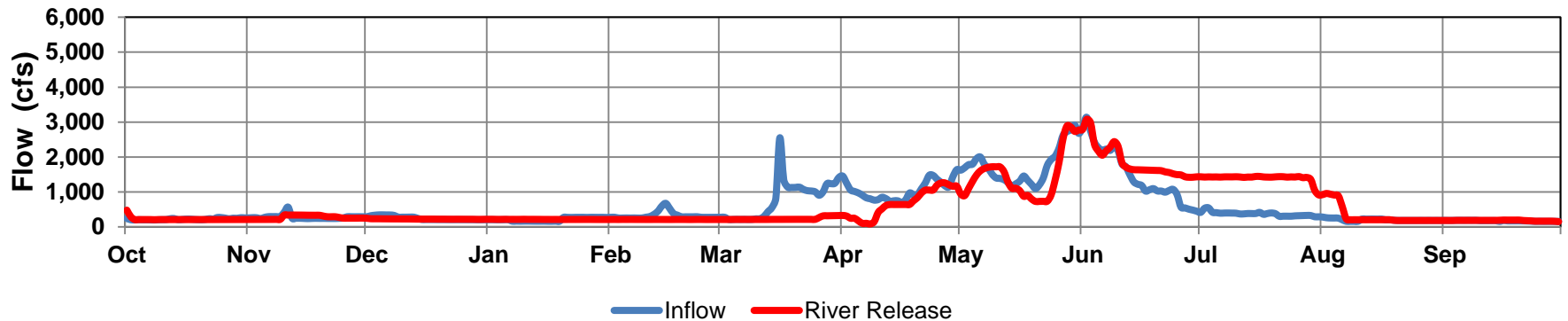
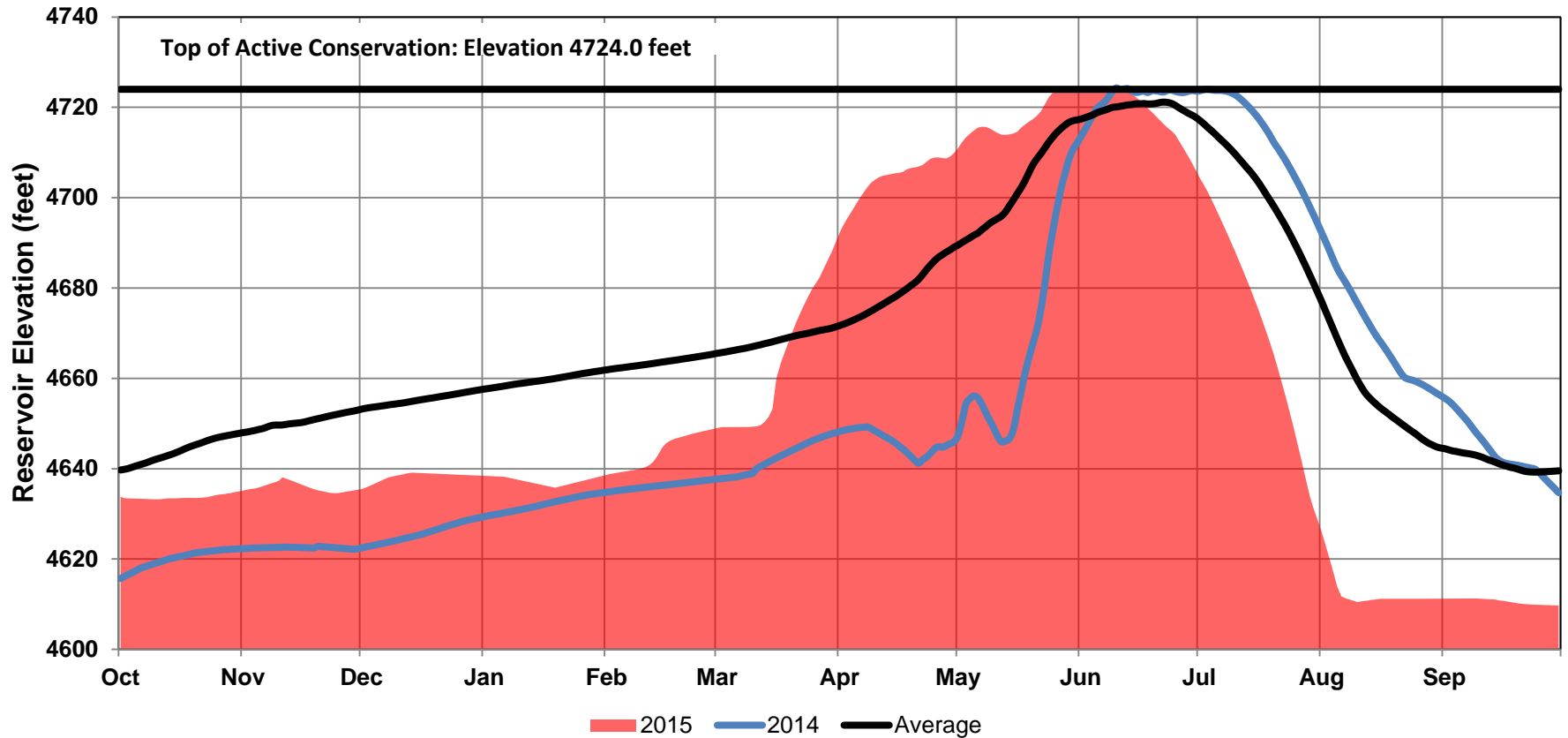
# Hebgen Reservoir Operations



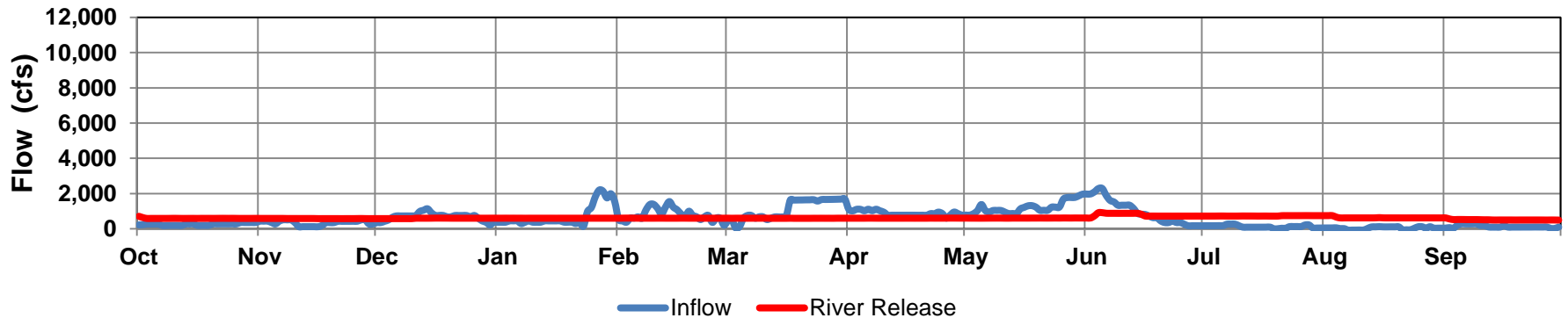
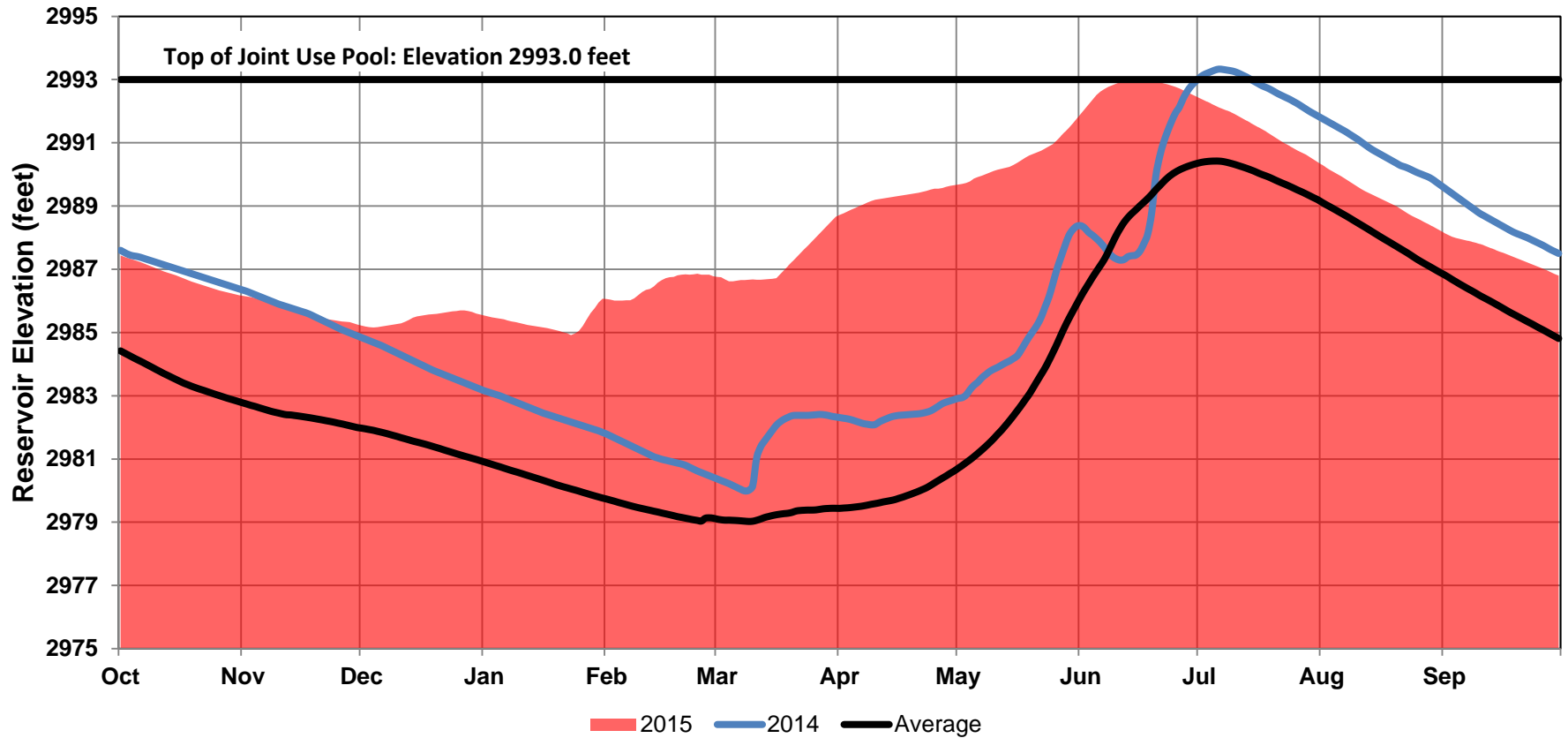
# Canyon Ferry Reservoir Operations



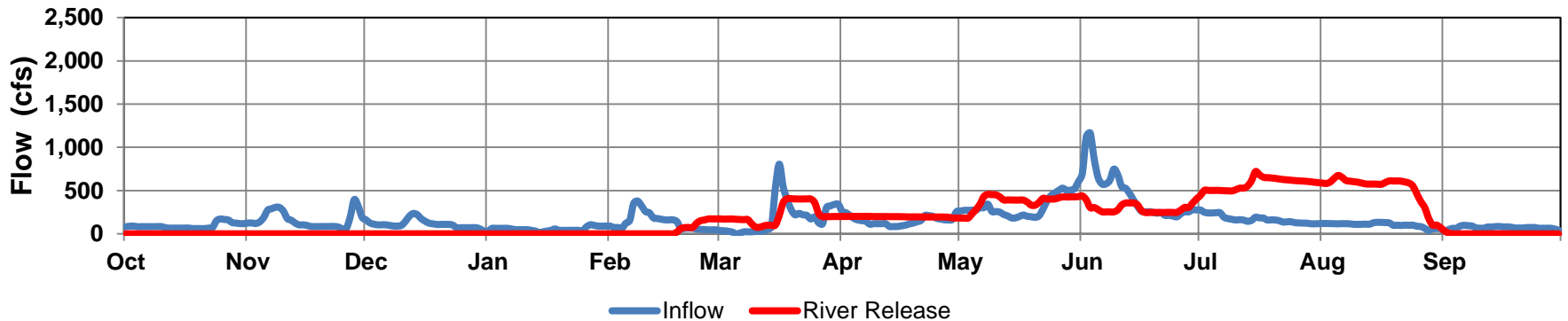
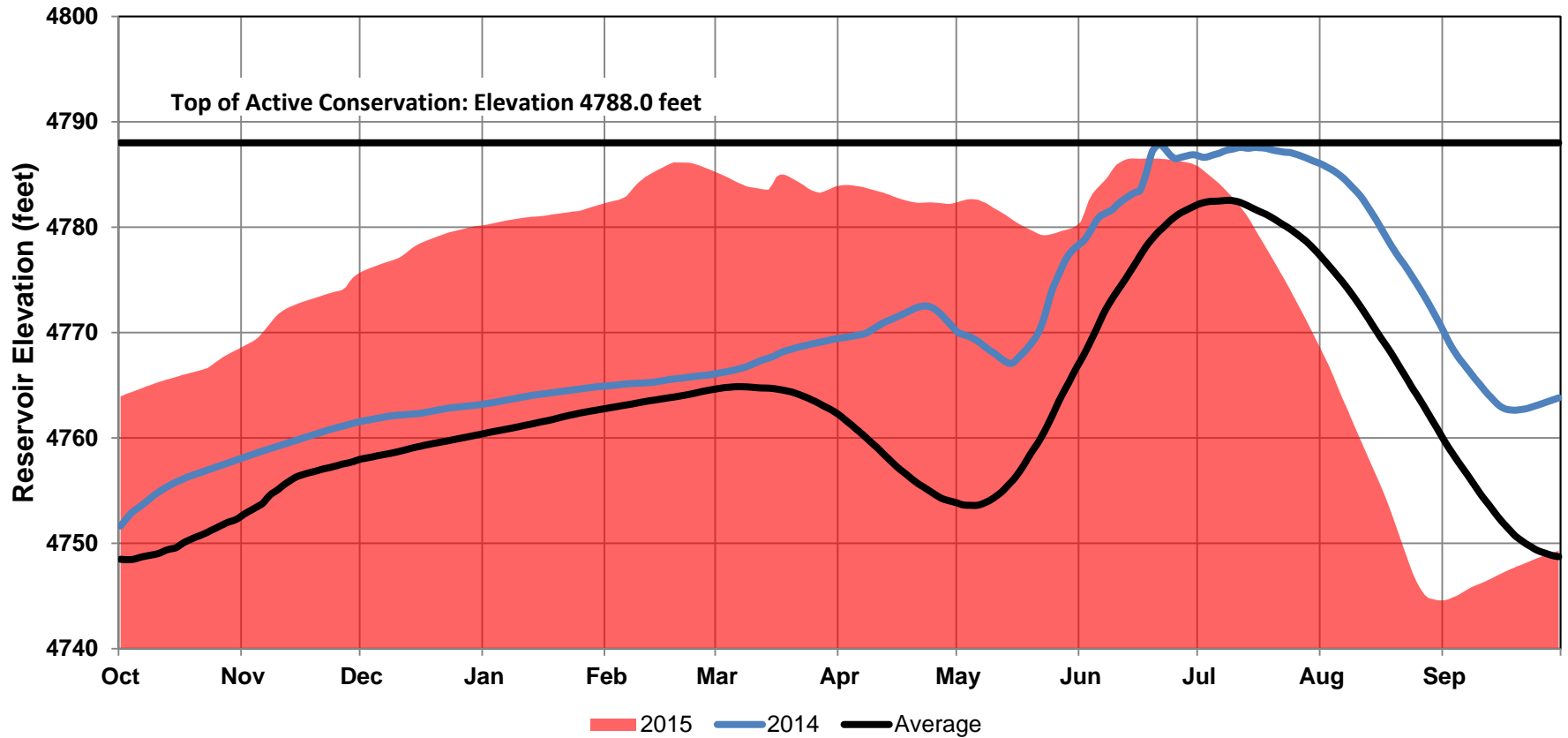
# Gibson Reservoir Operations



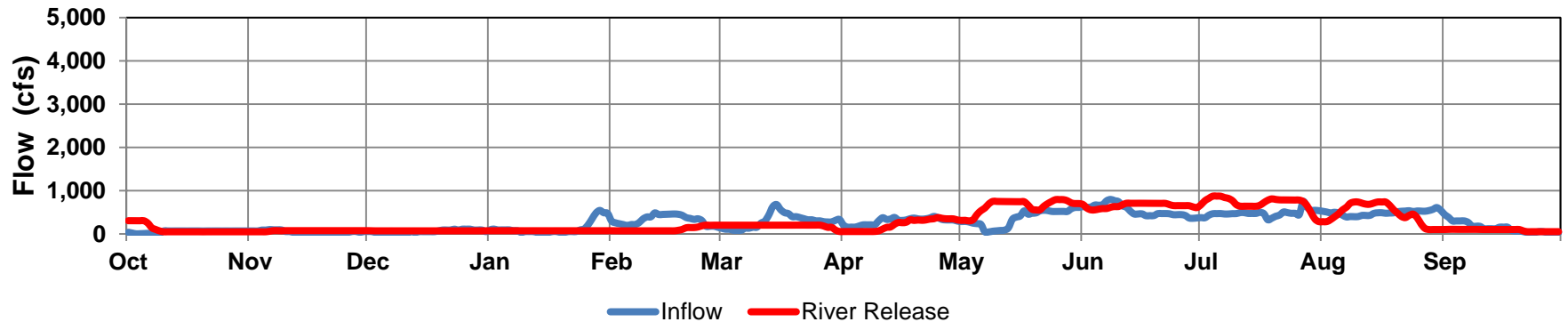
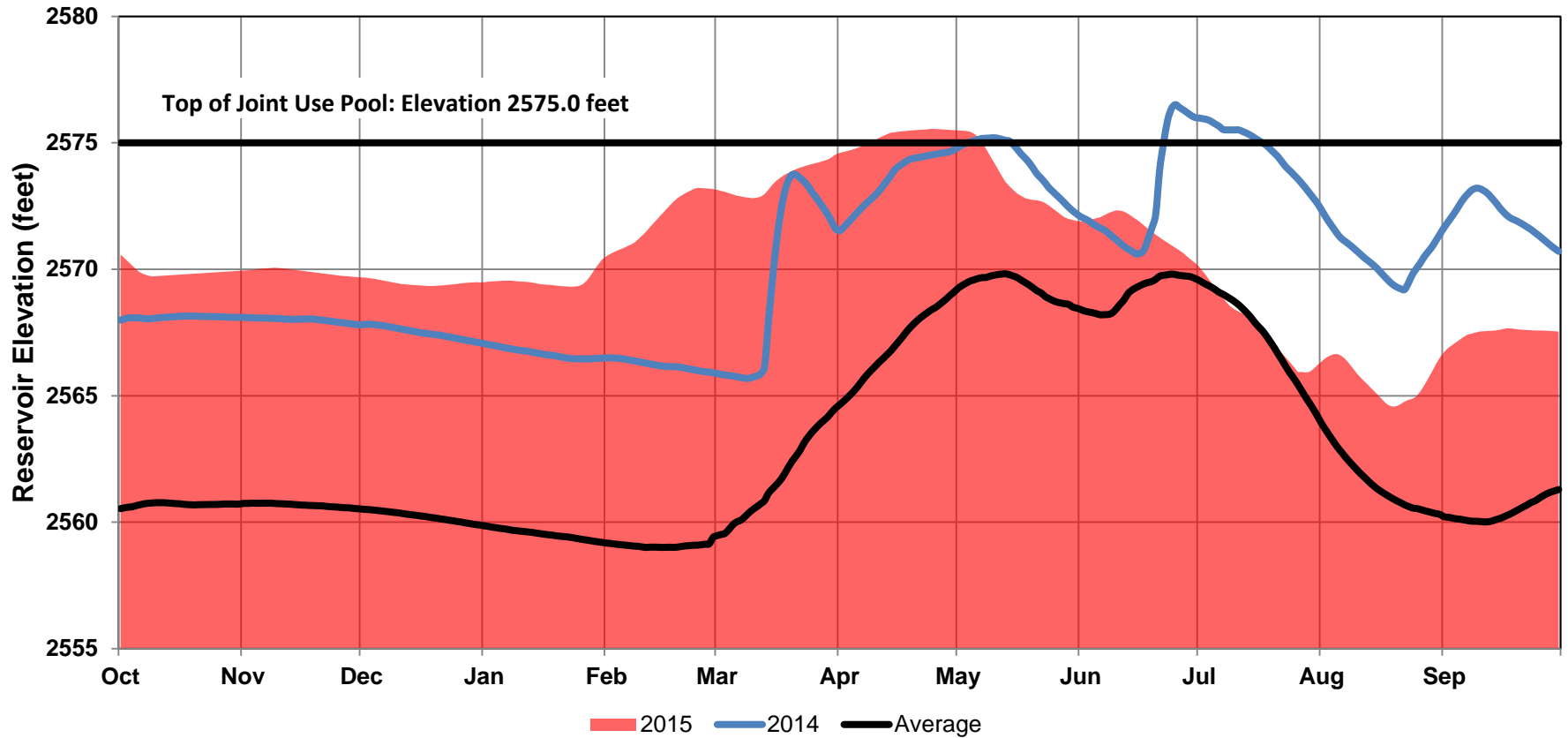
# Lake Elwell (Tiber Dam) Operations



# Lake Sherburne Operations

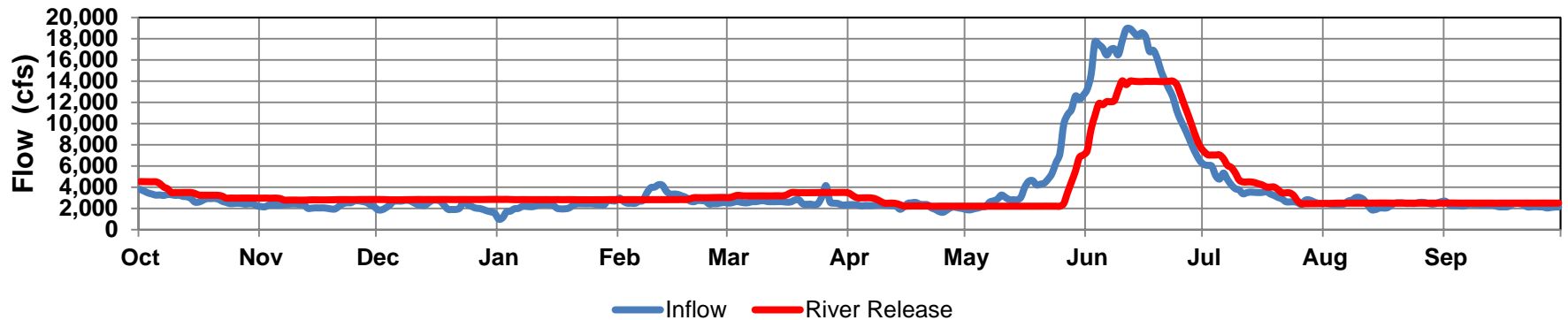
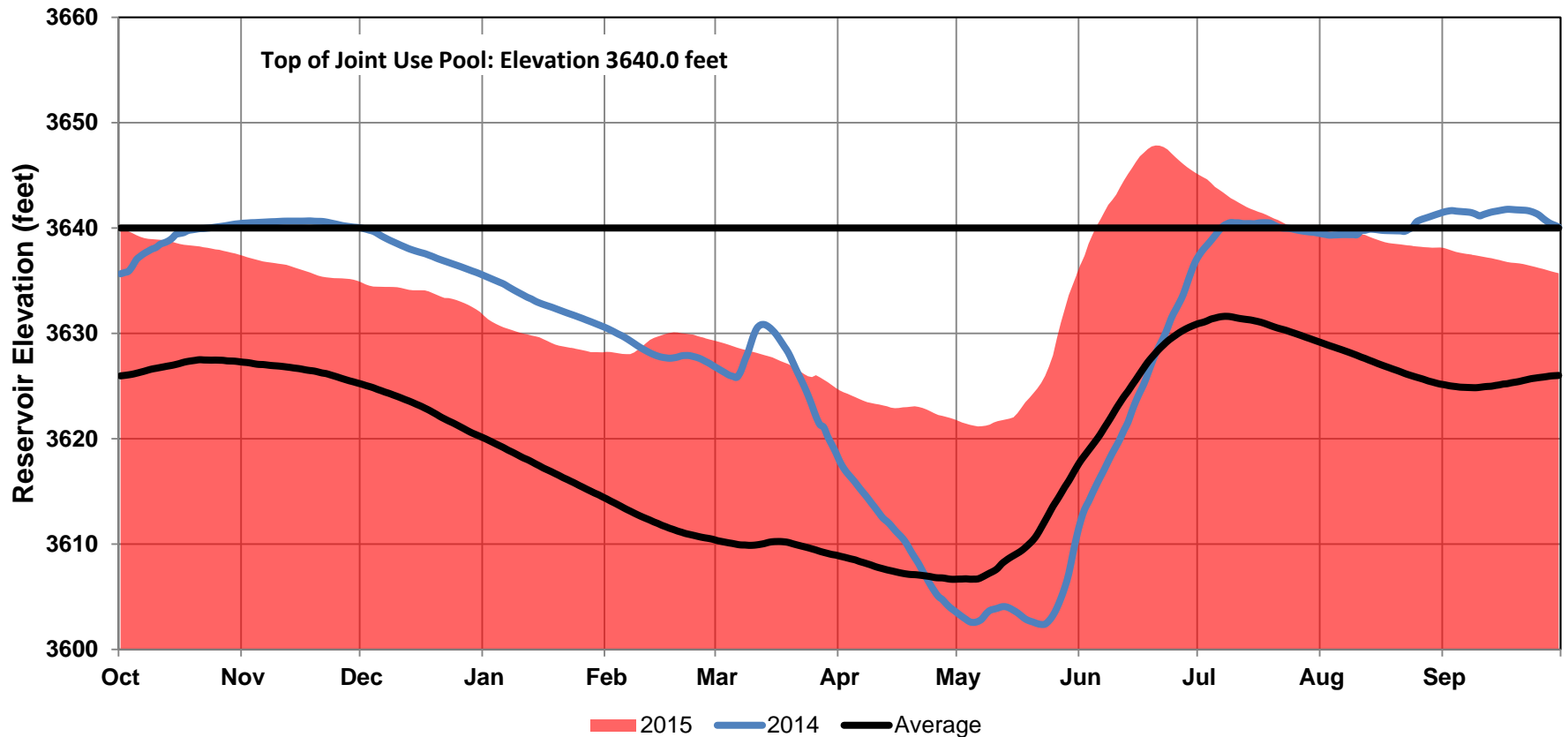


# Fresno Reservoir Operations





# Bighorn Lake (Yellowtail Dam) Operations



# Summary of Conditions

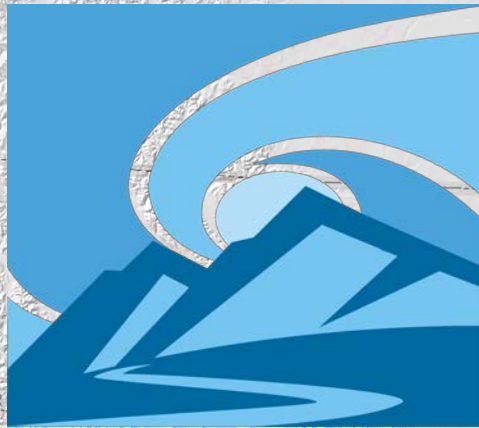
- Inflows continue to be below average
- Planned Fall / Winter Releases
  - Clark Canyon Reservoir – 30 cfs
  - Canyon Ferry – 3,400 cfs below Holter Dam
  - Sun River Diversion – 75 cfs to 100 cfs
  - Tiber Reservoir – 500 cfs
  - Fresno Reservoir – 50 cfs
  - Yellowtail Dam & Reservoir – TBD (Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>)

# Reclamation's Internet Website

<http://www.usbr.gov/gp/hydromet/>

- near real-time data available through the HYDROMET data system
- summaries and plots of historical data
- annual reservoir operating plan publication
- monthly water supply reports
- project data
- snow plots
- links to related internet sites

RECLAMATION

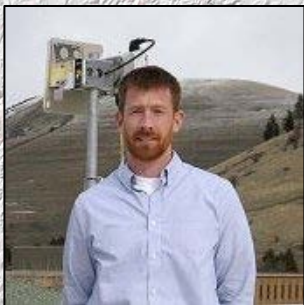


# Montana Climate Office

COLLEGE OF  
**FORESTRY &  
CONSERVATION**



MT Drought and Water Supply Committee  
October 15, 2015



**Kelsey  
Jensco**  
State  
Climatologist



**Ashley  
Ballentyne**  
Asst. State  
Climatologist



**Michael  
Sweet**  
Information  
Services



**Nick  
Silverman**  
Research  
Scientist





# MONTANA CLIMATE OFFICE



1. Our goal is to provide all Montanans with high-quality, timely, relevant, and scientifically-based climate information.
2. The MCO also assists stakeholders in interpreting climate information or adapting climate products to their needs.
3. The Montana Climate Office (MCO) is an independent state-designated body.
  - Housed under the Montana Forest Conservation Experiment Station
  - Official member of the AASC
  - State Library (2013) designated the MCO as the official steward of climate information for Montana.





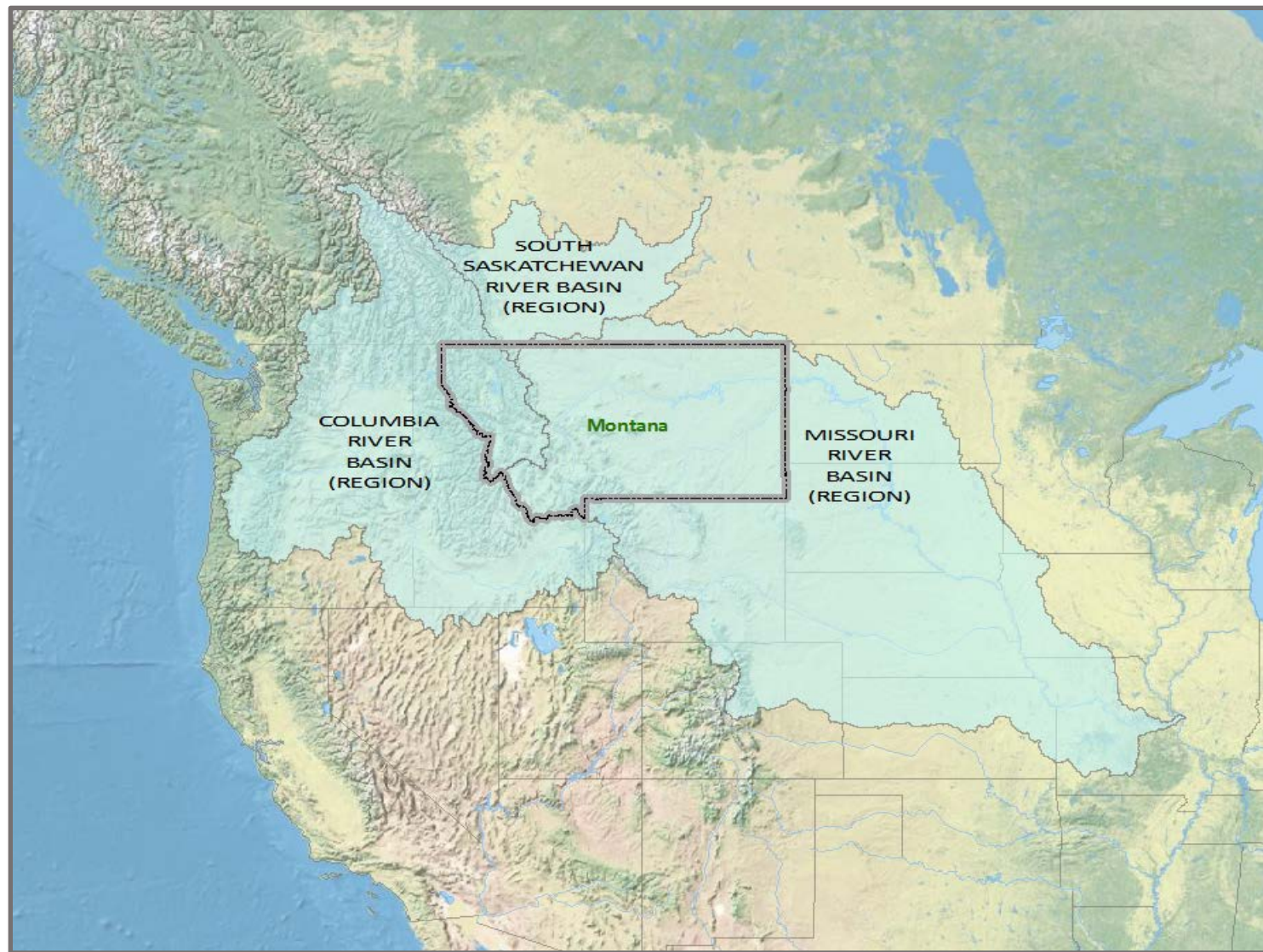
# A MONTANA FRAMEWORK

"A Montana Framework Data Layer is a State recognized, commonly needed and digitally formatted representation of land information features, natural and cultural that are **coordinated, developed, integrated, maintained, and distributed** through a community based effort over the geographic area of Montana and are, in the determination of the Montana Land Information Advisory Council and the Geographic Information Officer, significant to a broad variety of users within Montana and the Nation."





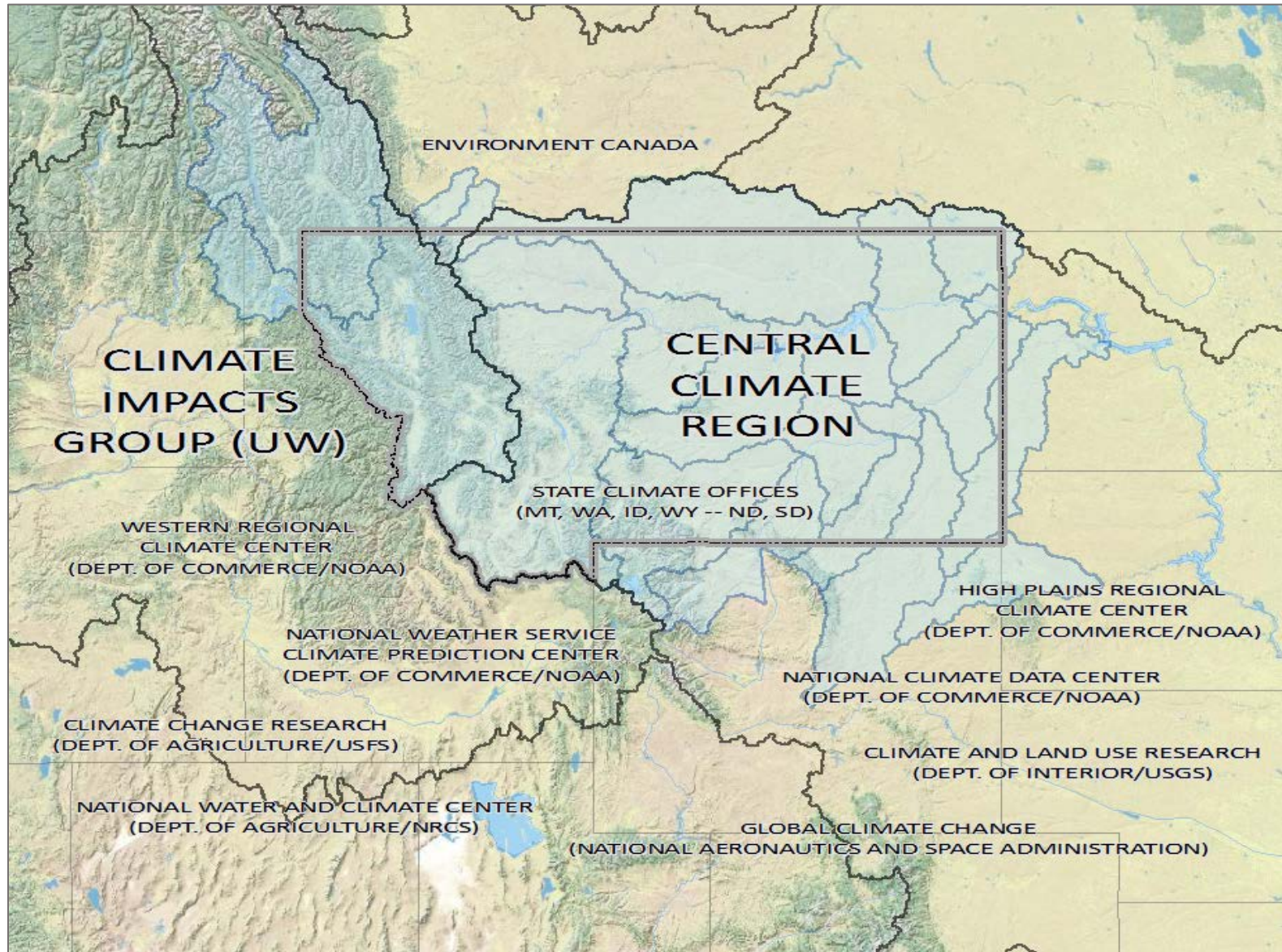
# MONTANA AT THE HEADWATERS



“Geographic Area of Interest”



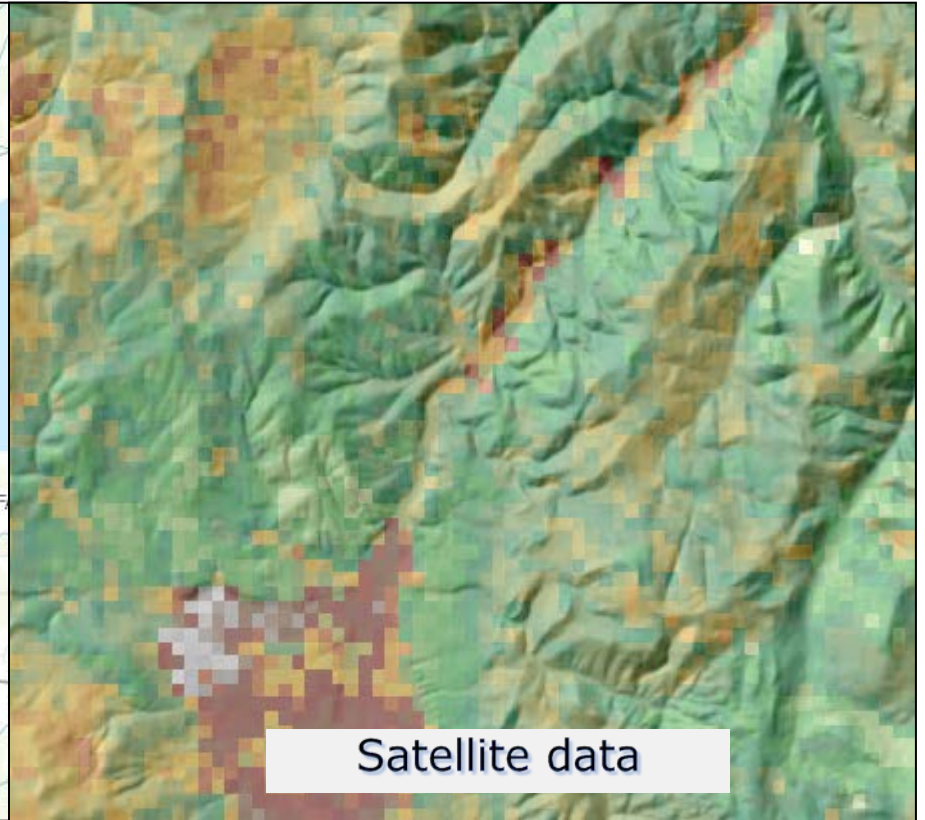
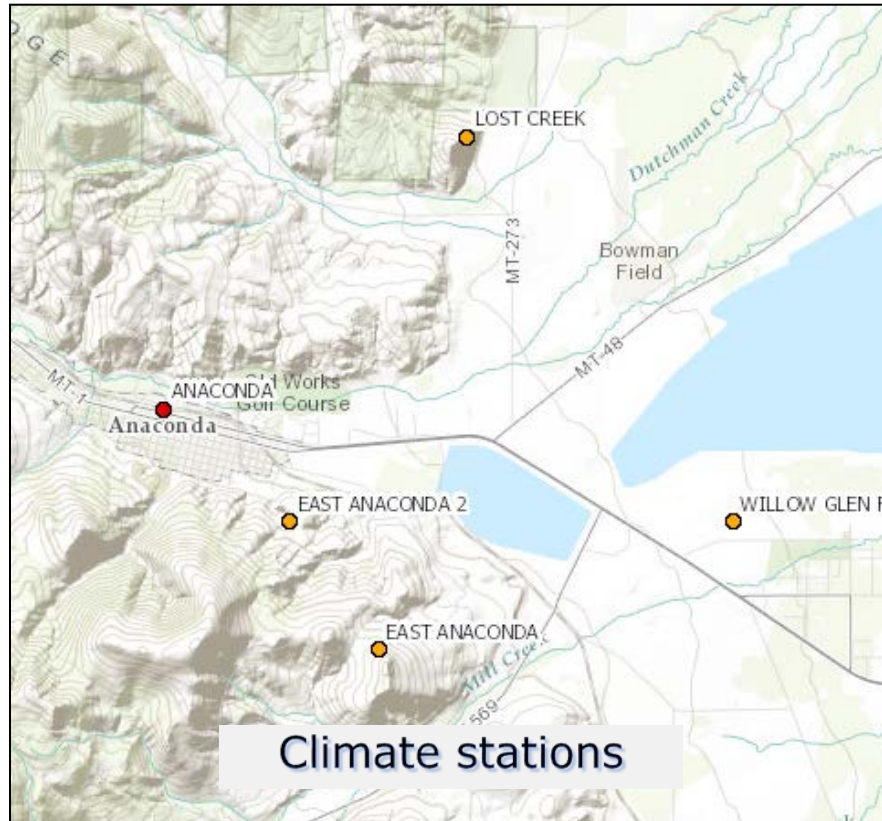
# MONTANA AT THE HEADWATERS



"Coordination"



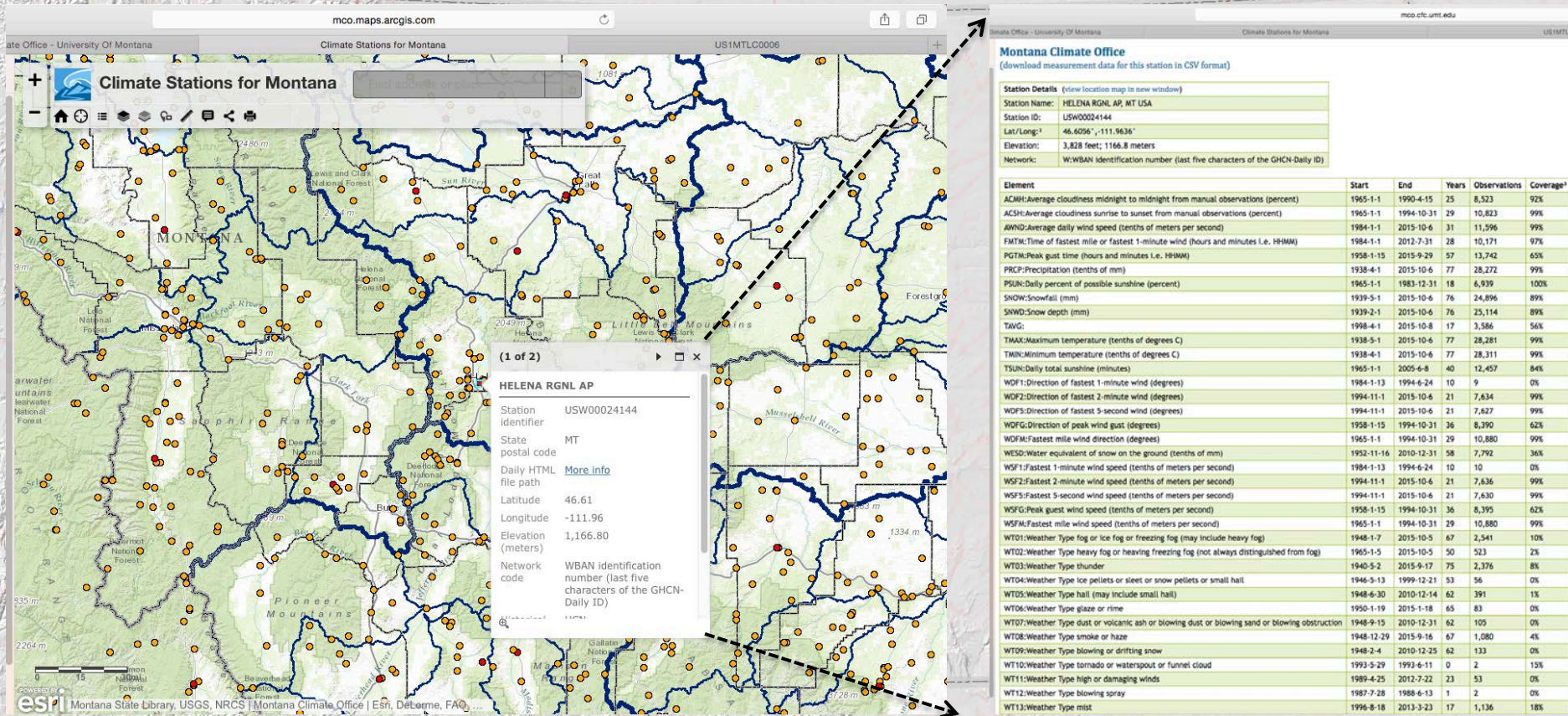
# Statewide science-based climate information with two primary data types – point and raster (gridded) data



“Developed, Integrated, and Maintained”



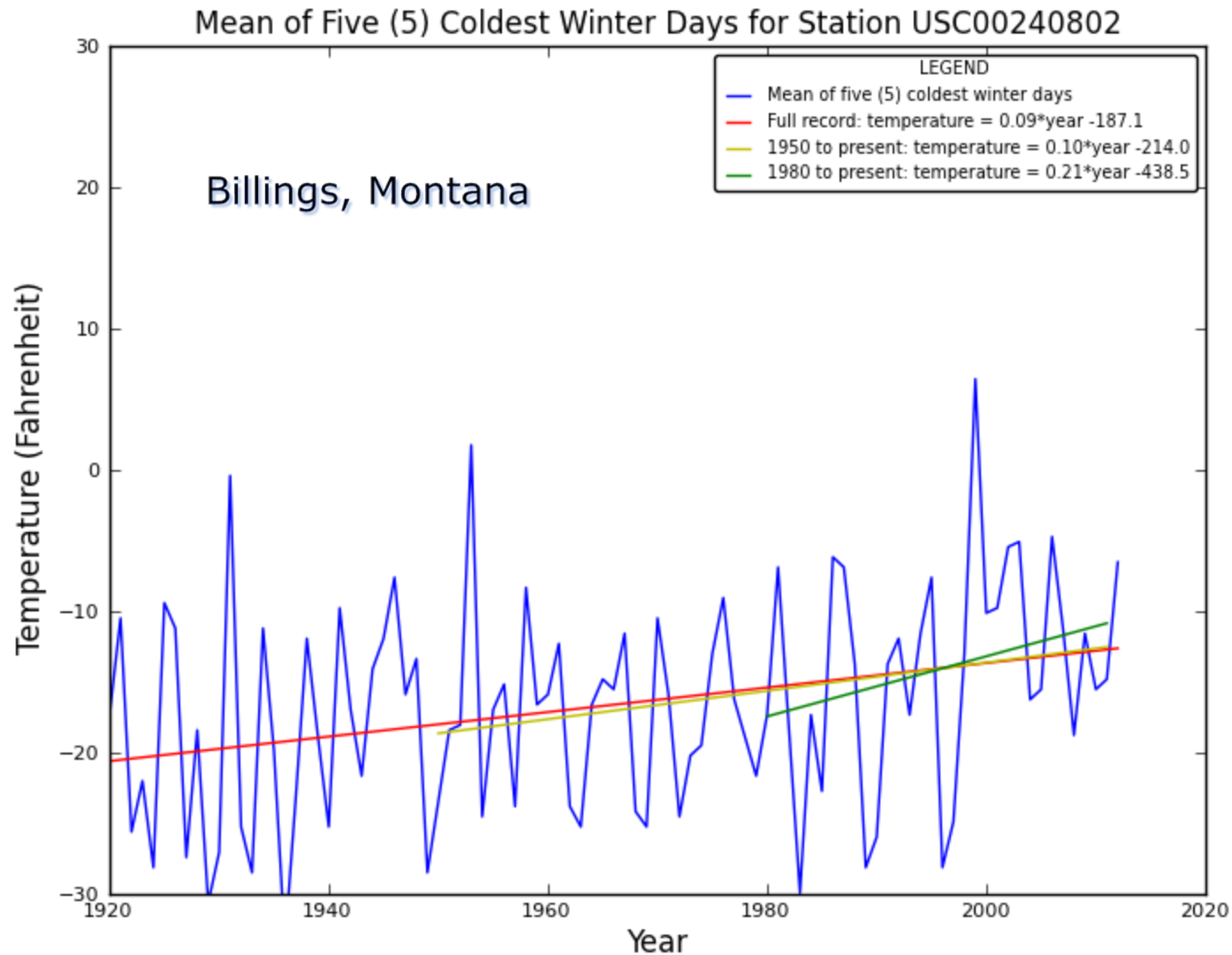
# Temperature, humidity, precipitation, snow water equivalent and snow depth Over 23-million records of observation



“Developed, Integrated, and Maintained”

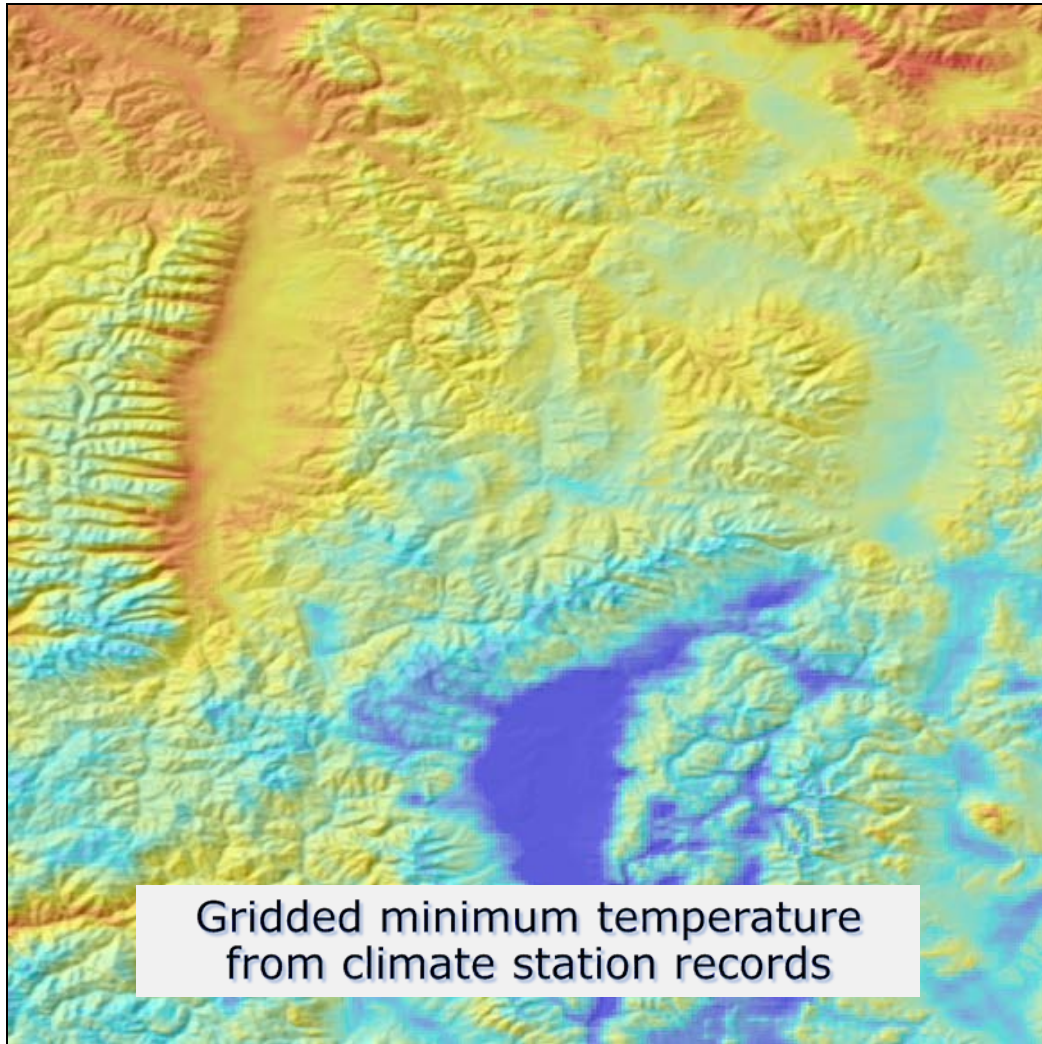


# A CONTEXT FOR CHANGE ANALYSIS



“Developed, Integrated, and Maintained”

# GRIDDED (RASTER) DATA



- Daily statewide products for temperature and precipitation
- measures of quality and uncertainty from 1948-2012.

Oyler, J. W., Ballantyne, A., Jencso, K., Sweet, M. and Running, S. W. (2014), Creating a topoclimatic daily air temperature dataset for the conterminous United States using homogenized station data and remotely sensed land skin temperature. *Int. J. Climatol.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/joc.4127>.





# NASA GRIDDED SATELLITE DATA

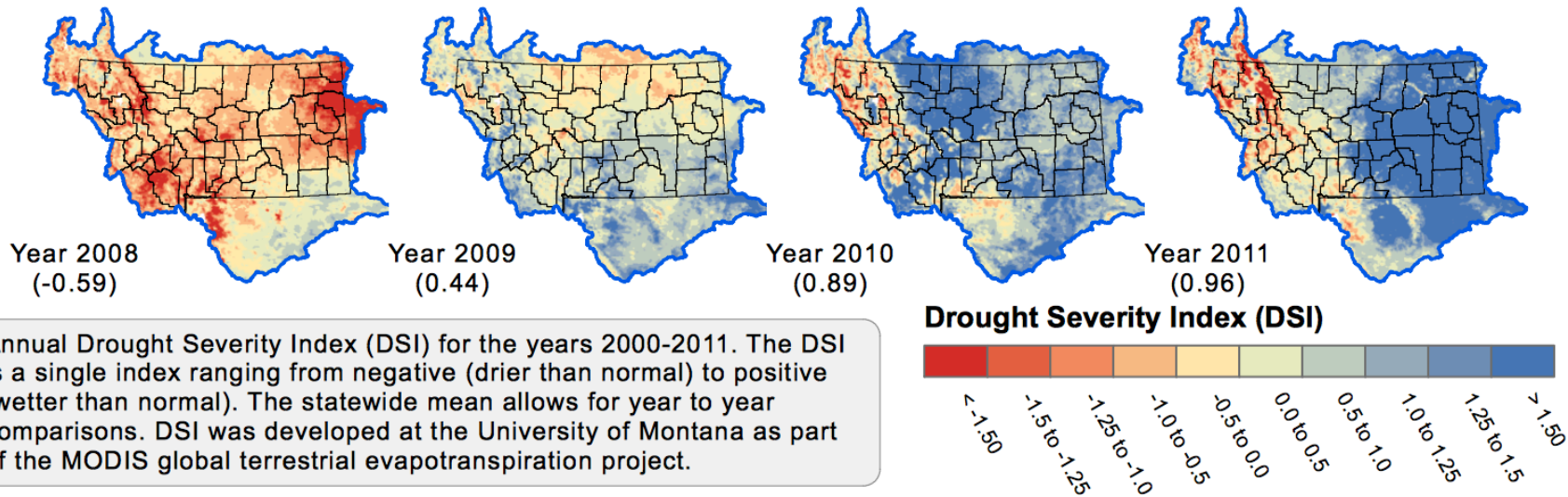
Products include common satellite-based terrestrial products:

- Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (**NDVI**)
- Enhanced Vegetation Index (**EVI**)
- Evapotranspiration (**ET**) as a measure of evaporation from the ground or vegetated surfaces combined with plant transpiration.
- A drought severity index (**DSI**) as a relative measure of soil wetness.

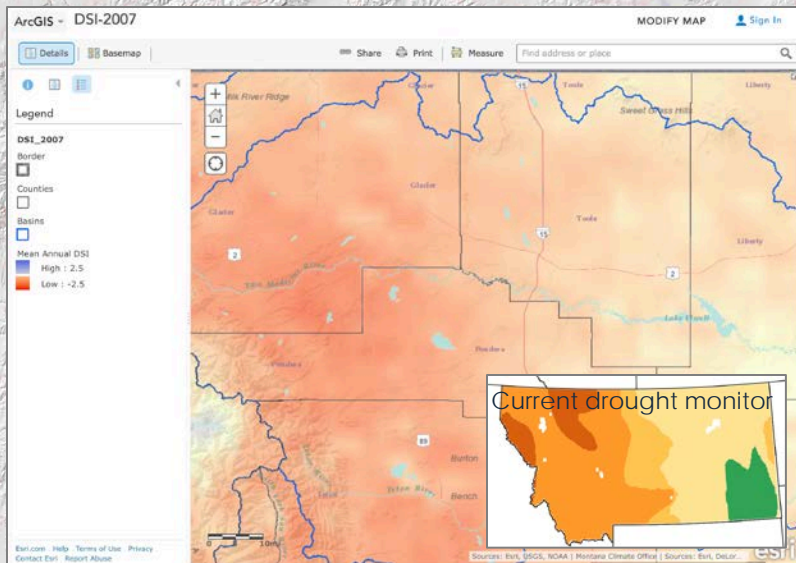
“Developed, Integrated, and Maintained”



# Satellite Drought Detection



Annual Drought Severity Index (DSI) for the years 2000-2011. The DSI is a single index ranging from negative (drier than normal) to positive (wetter than normal). The statewide mean allows for year to year comparisons. DSI was developed at the University of Montana as part of the MODIS global terrestrial evapotranspiration project.



## Operational Drought Product?

- Interactive
- Every 6 days
- 1km resolution

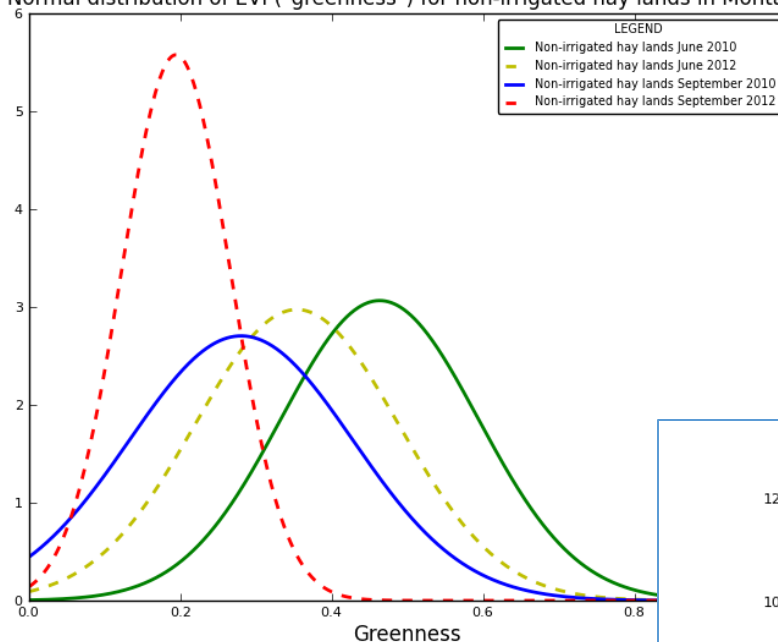
Qiaozhen Mu, Maosheng Zhao, John S. Kimball, Nathan G. McDowell, and Steven W. Running, 2013: A Remotely Sensed Global Terrestrial Drought Severity Index. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, **94**, 83-98.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-11-00213.1>

<http://arcg.is/1QM1Dsw>



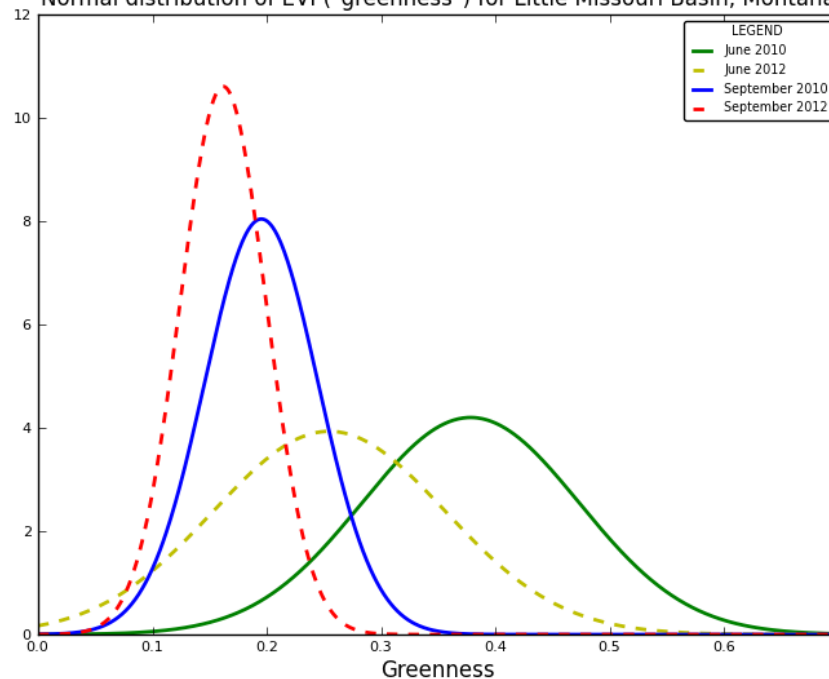


Normal distribution of EVI ("greenness") for non-irrigated hay lands in Montana



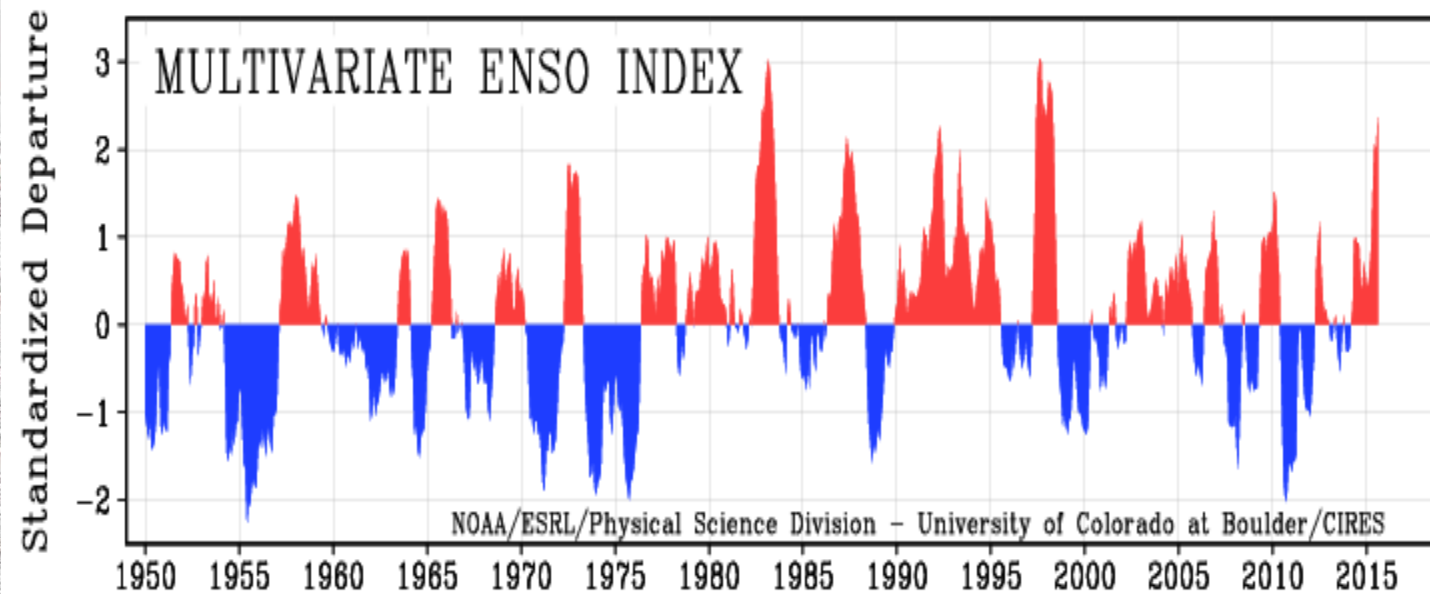
Distribution of greenness, evapotranspiration and drought values allow us to compare and characterize croplands and vegetation between different time periods.

Normal distribution of EVI ("greenness") for Little Missouri Basin, Montana



Distribution of greenness, evapotranspiration, and drought values allows us to compare and characterize watersheds between different time periods.





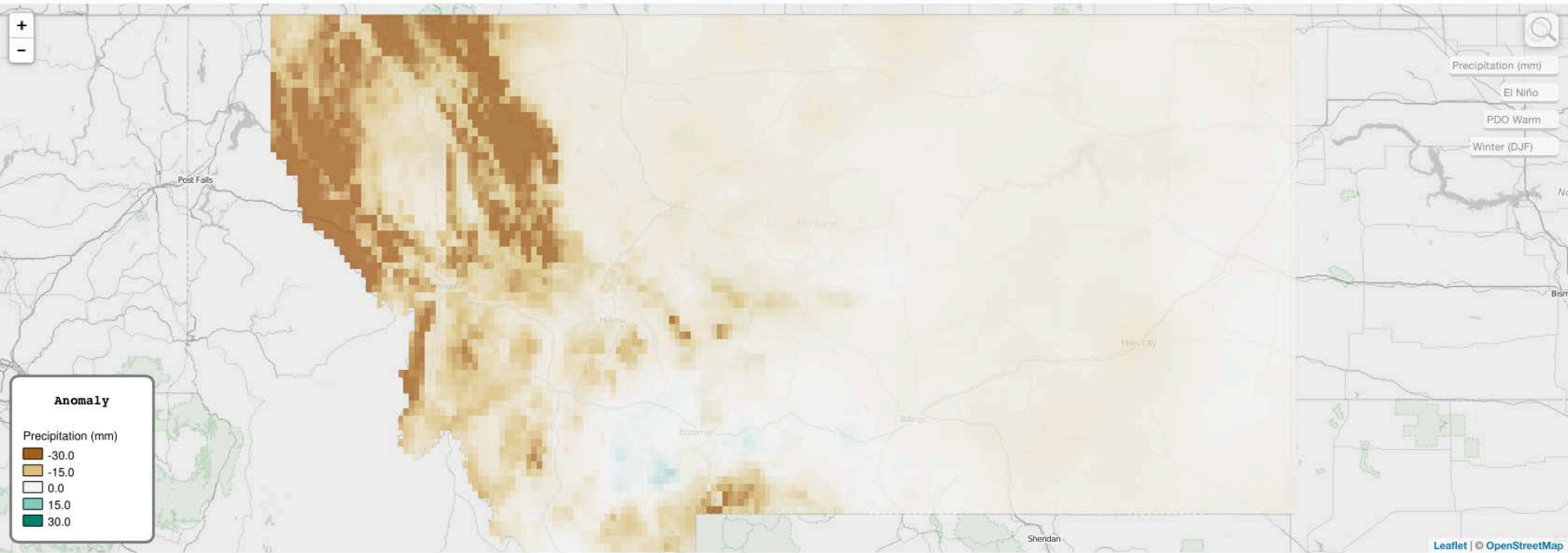
- **El Nino** => warm and dry; **La Nina** => cool and wet.
- Most accurate measurement of ENSO is the Multivariate ENSO Index (MEI).
- Takes into consideration the spatial patterns of 6 different variables over the tropical Pacific: (1) **sea-level pressure**, (2) **zonal wind speed** (3) **meridional wind speed**, (3) **sea surface temp.**, (4) **air temp.**, and (6) **cloudiness**.



# MT CLIMATE VARIABILITY WEB TOOL

## Montana Climate Variability Map

[Introduction](#)   [How to use?](#)   [Current conditions](#)   [Acknowledgements](#)   [Bug reports!](#)



For questions or comments, please contact [nick@adaptivehydro.com](mailto:nick@adaptivehydro.com)



"Developed, Integrated, and Maintained"

# MONTANA CLIMATE ATLAS


mco.maps.arcgis.com

Home Gallery Map Scene Groups

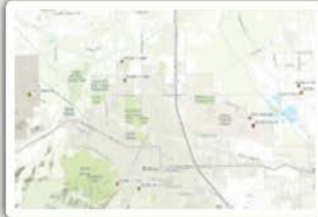
Sign In

# Montana Climate Office

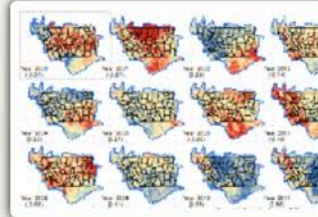
## Climate Atlas Of Montana



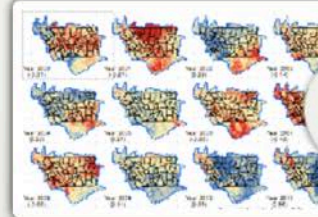
Area of Interest



Climate Stations



Drought Severity Index (tabbed)



Drought Severity Index (time slider)

Welcome to the Montana Climate Office. We are excited about the opportunity to work with fellow Montanans to advance our collective understanding of climate variability and how it impacts the resources and industries we care about. By understanding climate variability, uncertainty, and leveraging existing information we can work together to build the knowledge and resilience necessary to sustain the livelihood of Montanans into the future.

Esri.com

Help

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“Distributed”

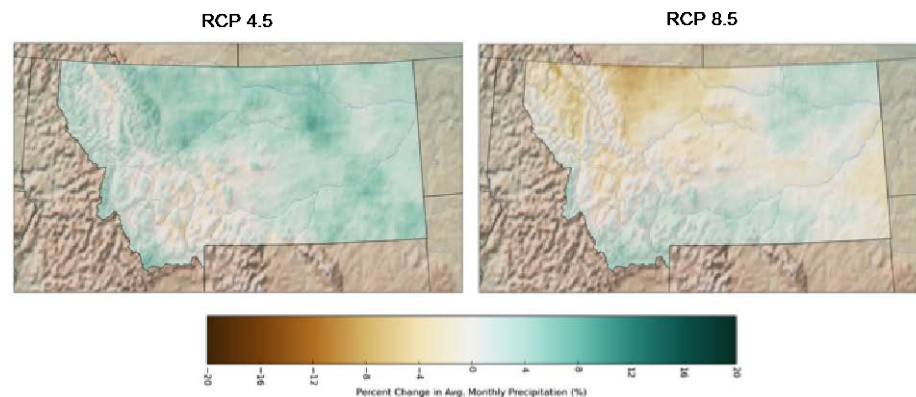




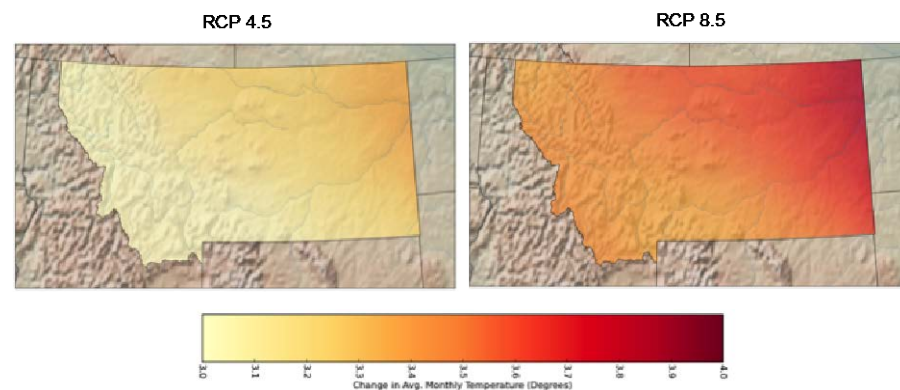
# MONTANA CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

1. Develop a climate prospectus for stakeholder listening sessions
2. Historical analyses of temperature and precipitation by county and watershed across Montana
3. Evaluation of GCM downscaling methodologies and their relevance across Montana
4. Future change analysis across Montana by watershed and county

% Change in Precip. (2040–2069 vs. 1970–1999)



Change in Temperature (2040–2069 vs. 1970–1999)





## Montana Climate Office

Home Data and Products Working On Extras About Contacts

### Climate by Use



**About the Montana Climate Office**  
The Montana Climate Office has been an entity within Montana since the mid-1970's. In 2006 Governor Schweitzer designated the Montana Climate Office as the official state climate office.



**Satellite data published**  
The Montana Climate Office has published greenness, enhanced greenness, evapotranspiration, and potential evapotranspiration for the years 2000 to present.



**Climate station data published**  
The Montana Climate Office has published daily climate records for over four-thousand climate stations covering Montana and surrounding areas.

Montana Climate Office

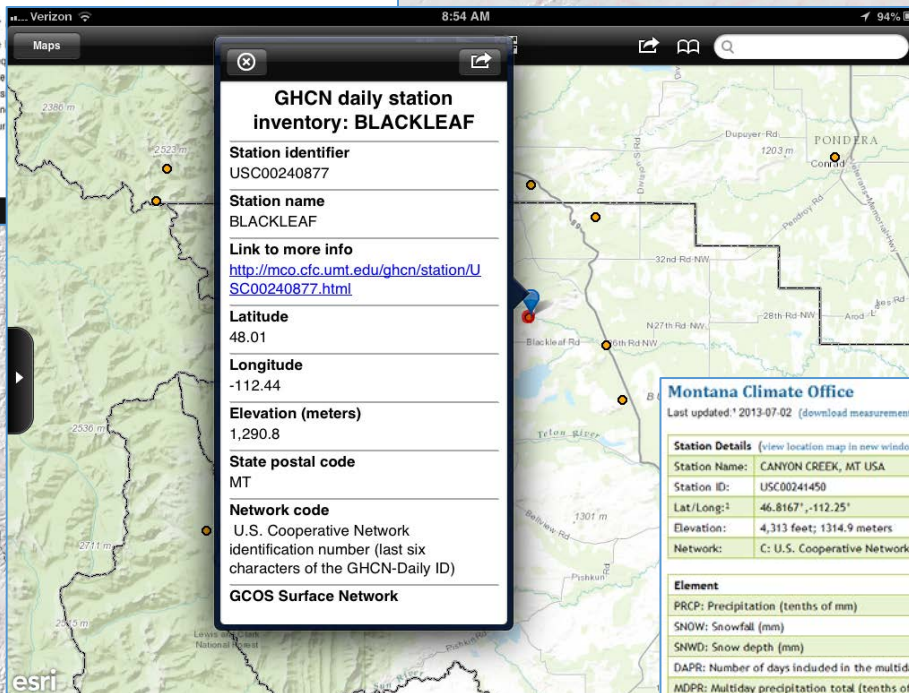
#### A message from Dr. Kelsey Jencso, State Climatologist



"Welcome to the Montana Climate Office. We are excited about the opportunity to work with fellow Montanans to advance our collective understanding of climate variability and how it impacts the resources and industries we care about. By understanding climate variability, uncertainty, and leveraging existing information we can work together to build the knowledge and resilience necessary to sustain Montanan's livelihoods into the future."

#### Weather

The difference given place req  
Weather is the cloudiness, vis  
of variability an  
changes in our



Access through MCO website, and published through the Montana State Library portal

MONTANA.GOV  
OFFICIAL STATE WEBSITE

SERVICES AGENCIES LOGIN SEARCH

#### Geographic Information

Providing Montana a sense of place



MSDI Data Geography Web Changes

Home > Data > Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)

#### Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)

Access via mobile devices

Access via direct download or through web services

"Distributed"

#### Montana Climate Office

Last updated: 2013-07-02 (download measurement data for this station in CSV format)

Station Details (view location map in new window)	
Station Name:	CANYON CREEK, MT USA
Station ID:	USC00241450
Lat/Long:	46.8167°,-112.25°
Elevation:	4,313 feet; 1314.9 meters
Network:	C: U.S. Cooperative Network identification number (last six characters of the GHCN-Daily ID)

Element	Start	End	Years	Observations	Coverage <sup>1</sup>
PRCP: Precipitation (tenths of mm)	1907	1979	72	12,129	46%
SNOW: Snowfall (mm)	1907	1979	72	9,481	36%
SNWD: Snow depth (mm)	1907	1978	71	8,530	33%
DAPR: Number of days included in the multiday precipitation total (MDPR)	1959	1978	19	5	0%
MDPR: Multiday precipitation total (tenths of mm and use with DAPR and DWPR if available)	1959	1978	19	5	0%
WT01: Weather Type fog or ice fog or freezing fog (may include heavy fog)	1950	1960	10	5	0%
WT03: Weather Type thunder	1948	1968	20	227	3%
WT04: Weather Type ice pellets or sleet or snow pellets or small hail	1949	1964	15	15	0%
WT05: Weather Type hail (may include small hail)	1951	1964	13	8	0%
WT06: Weather Type glaze or rime	1948	1953	5	4	0%
WT08: Weather Type smoke or haze	1949	1949	0	0	0%
WT09: Weather Type blowing or drifting snow	1949	1950	1	40	6%
WT11: Weather Type high or damaging winds	1948	1957	9	128	4%
WT14: Weather Type drizzle	1948	1951	3	14	1%

Additional information for this site is available at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)





# Montana Climate Office

<http://www.cfc.umt.edu/mco/>





# Governor's Drought & Water Supply Advisory Committee October NRCC Update

Harold Gemmell, Direct Fire Protection Coordinator  
DNRC

[hgemmell@mt.gov](mailto:hgemmell@mt.gov) 406 329 4996



Cottonwood Gulch Fire  
8600 acres







Red Rock Fire  
1200 Acres



Sheep Fire  
Lewis and Clark NF

**Year-to-date statistics**

2015 (1/1/15 - 10/8/15)	Fires: 51,110	Acres: 11,245,536
2014 (1/1/14 - 10/8/14)	Fires: 41,707	Acres: 3,064,327
2013 (1/1/13 - 10/8/13)	Fires: 38,698	Acres: 4,136,928
2012 (1/1/12 - 10/8/12)	Fires: 49,506	Acres: 8,861,675
2011 (1/1/11 - 10/8/11)	Fires: 61,879	Acres: 8,290,670
2010 (1/1/10 - 10/8/10)	Fires: 57,419	Acres: 3,109,960
2009 (1/1/09 - 10/8/09)	Fires: 70,548	Acres: 5,667,362
2008 (1/1/08 - 10/8/08)	Fires: 70,548	Acres: 4,962,214
2007 (1/1/07 - 10/8/07)	Fires: 74,415	Acres: 8,292,604
2006 (1/1/06 - 10/8/06)	Fires: 84,578	Acres: 9,114,636
2005 (1/1/05 - 10/8/05)	Fires: 54,425	Acres: 8,186,434

**Annual average prior 10 years**

2005-2014	Fires: 60,506	Acres: 6,371,381
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Human Caused Fires	Human Caused Acres	Lightning Caused Fires	Lightning Caused Acres	WILDFIRE TOTALS	
				FIRES	ACRES

## IDAHO

Bureau of Indian Affairs	BIA	29	23	1	1	30	24
Bureau of Land Management	BLM	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Defense	DOD	0	0	0	0	0	0
U.S. Forest Service	FS	27	27	441	238,199	468	238,226
National Park Service	NPS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho Department of Lands	IDS	154	4,131	120	89,847	274	93,978
		210	4,181	562	328,047	772	332,228

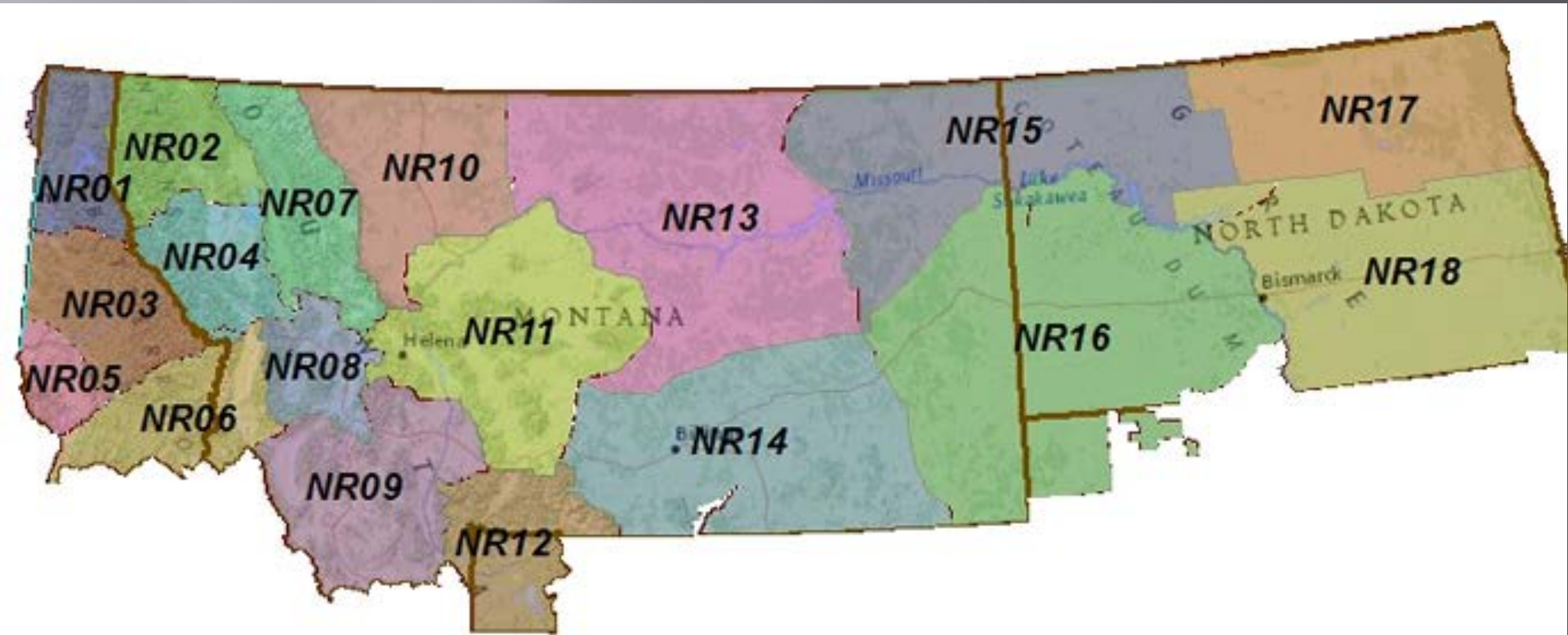
## MONTANA

Bureau of Indian Affairs	BIA	350	1,847	81	20,631	431	22,478
Bureau of Land Management	BLM	15	5,688	72	8,088	87	13,776
MT Counties	C&L	503	26,509	250	44,030	753	70,539
U.S. Forest Service	FS	239	2,556	462	209,683	701	212,239
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	FWS	0	0	1	0	1	0
National Park Service	NPS	2	4,639	16	18,877	18	23,516
Dept of Natural Resources & Conservation	MTS	208	1,598	127	1,996	335	3,594
		1,317	42,837	1,009	303,305	2,326	346,142

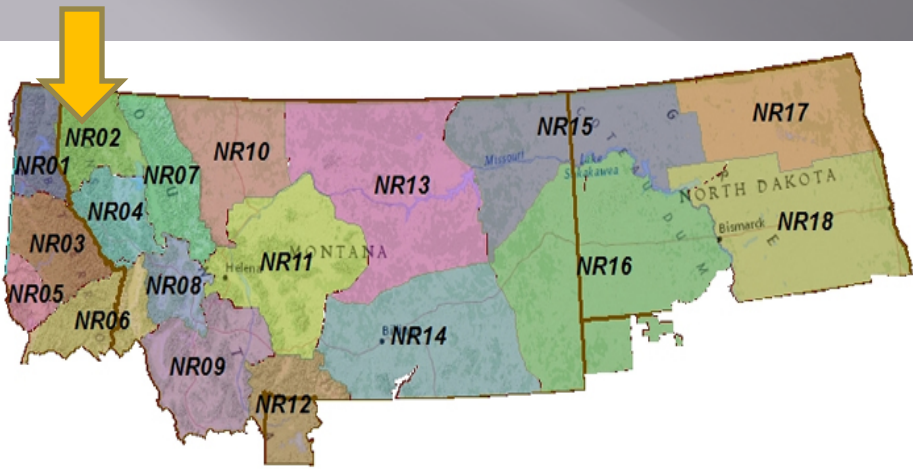
## NORTH DAKOTA

Bureau of Indian Affairs	BIA	506	4,119	2	2	508	4,121
Bureau of Land Management	BLM	0	0	0	0	0	0
U.S. Forest Service	FS	19	3,739	4	31	23	3,770
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	FWS	6	859	2	121	8	980
National Park Service	NPS	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Dakota Forest Service	NDS	12	15,927	0	0	12	15,927
		543	24,644	8	154	551	24,798

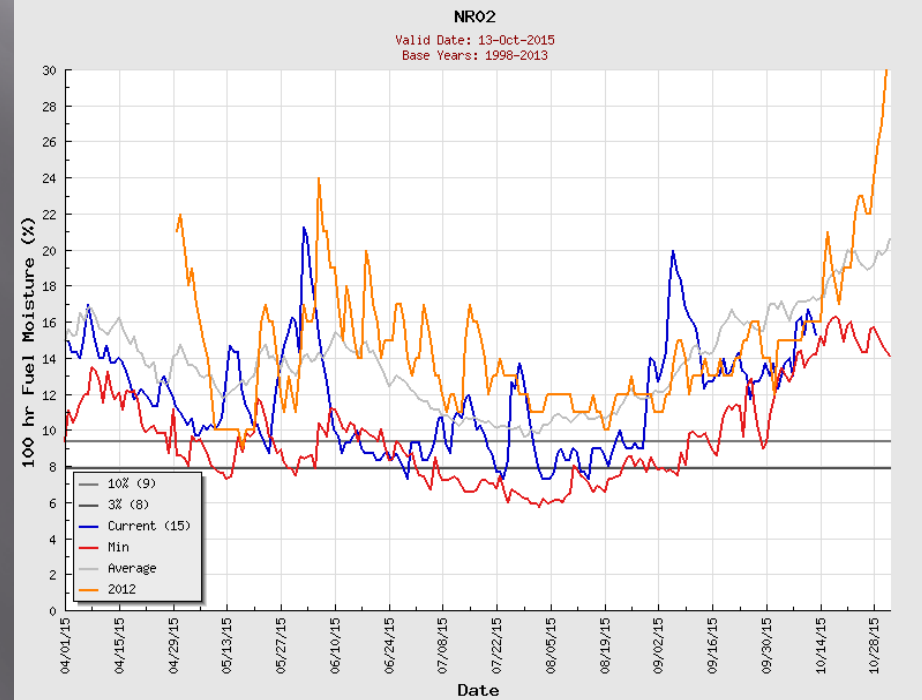
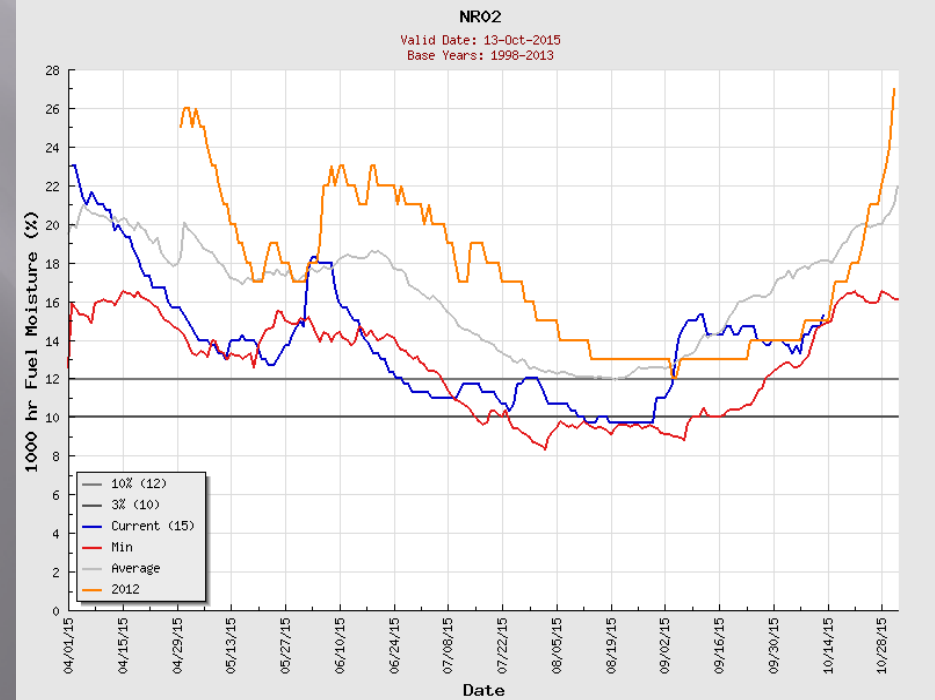
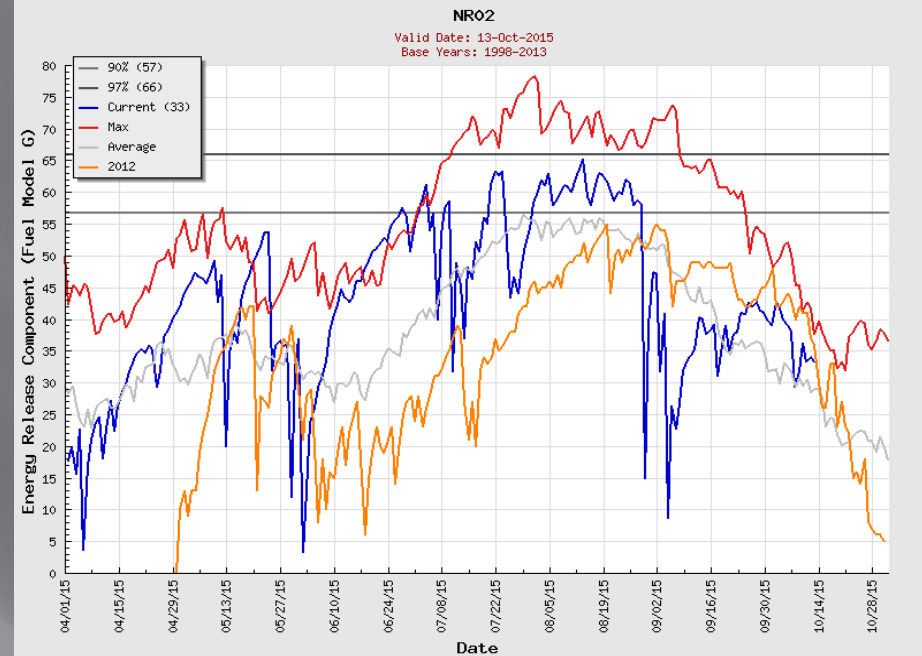
# NORTHERN ROCKIES GEOGRAPHIC AREA PREDICTIVE SERVICE AREAS



## NR02 - Northwestern Montana

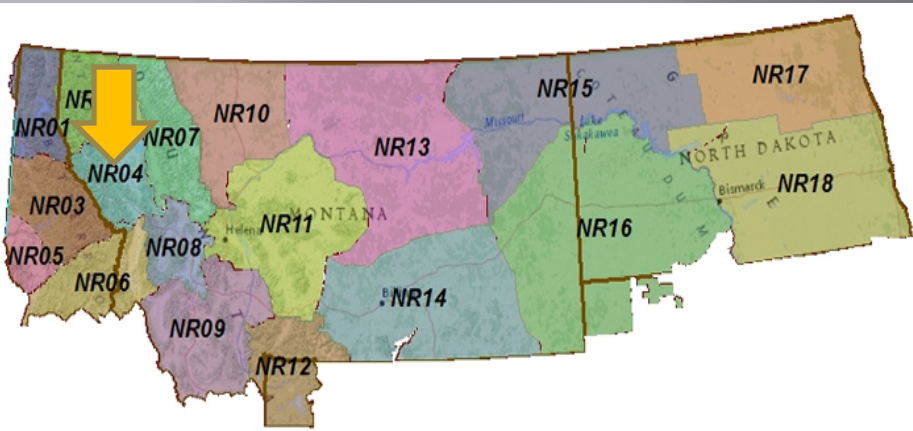


Libby Ranger Station  
Troy Ranger Station  
Eureka Ranger Station



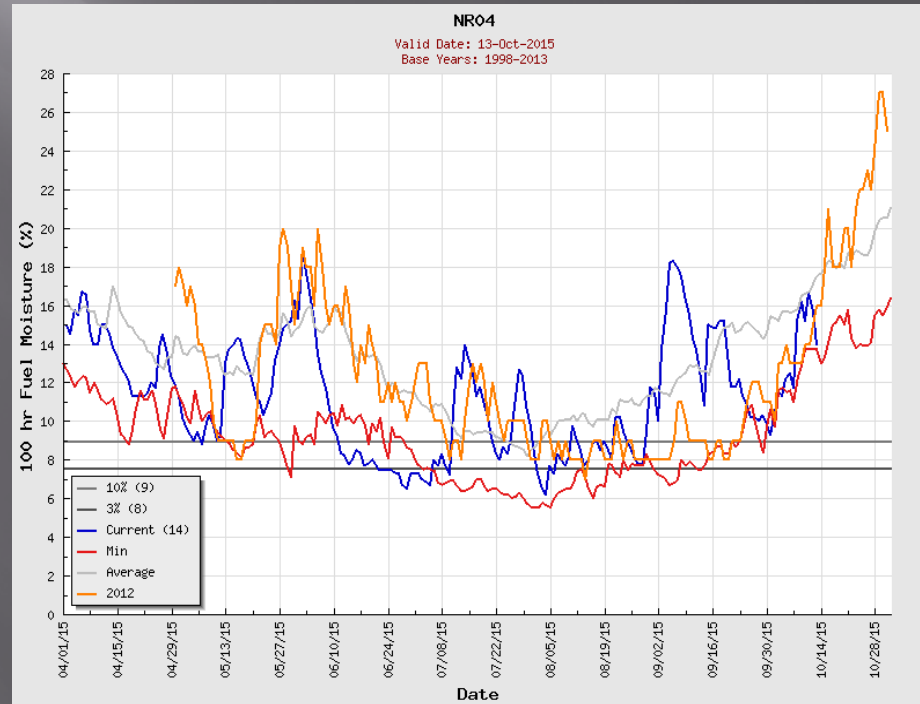
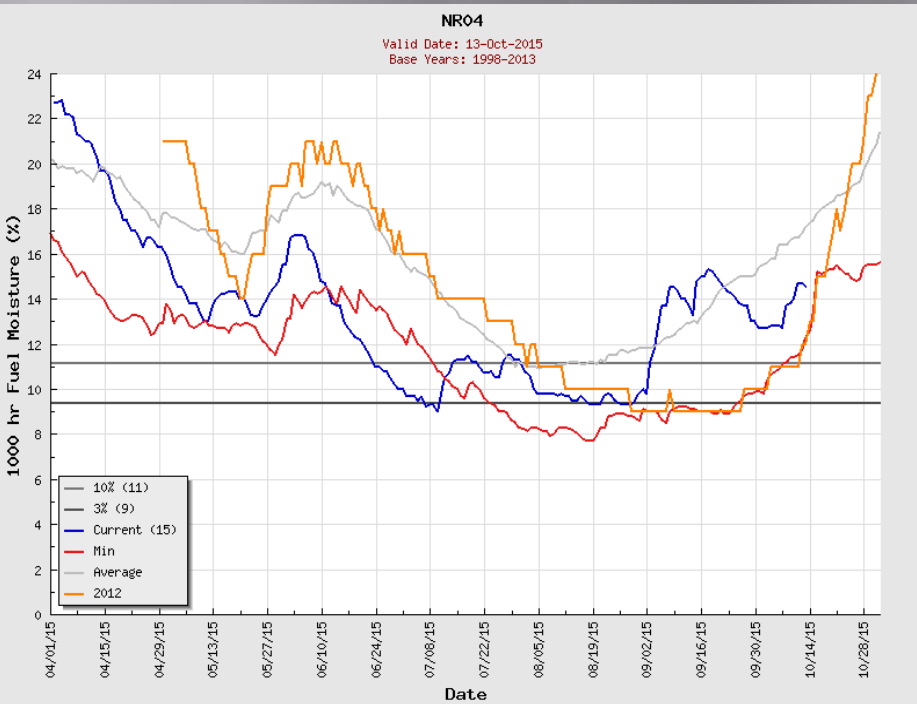
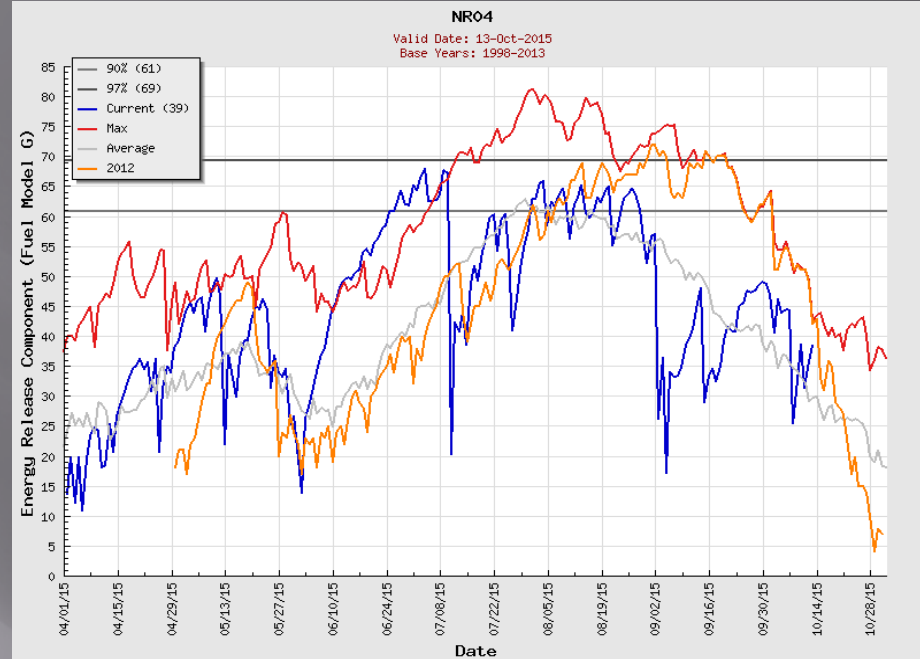


# NR04 – Western Montana

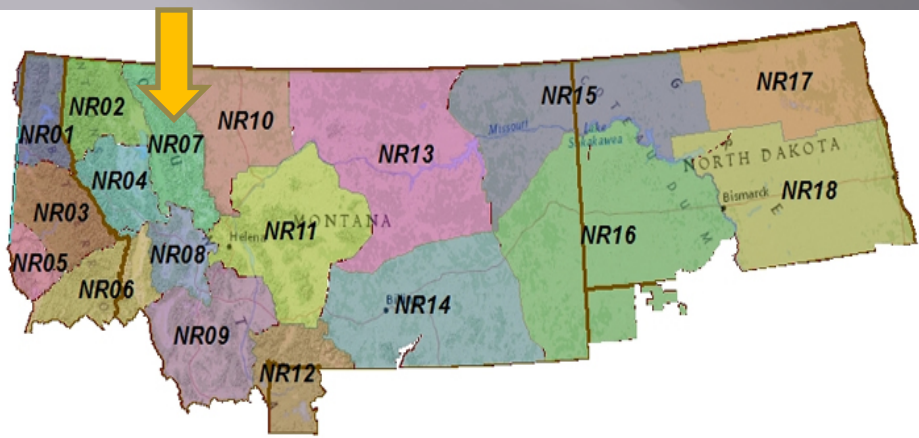


Plains  
Missoula  
St. Regis

Hot Springs  
Nine Mile

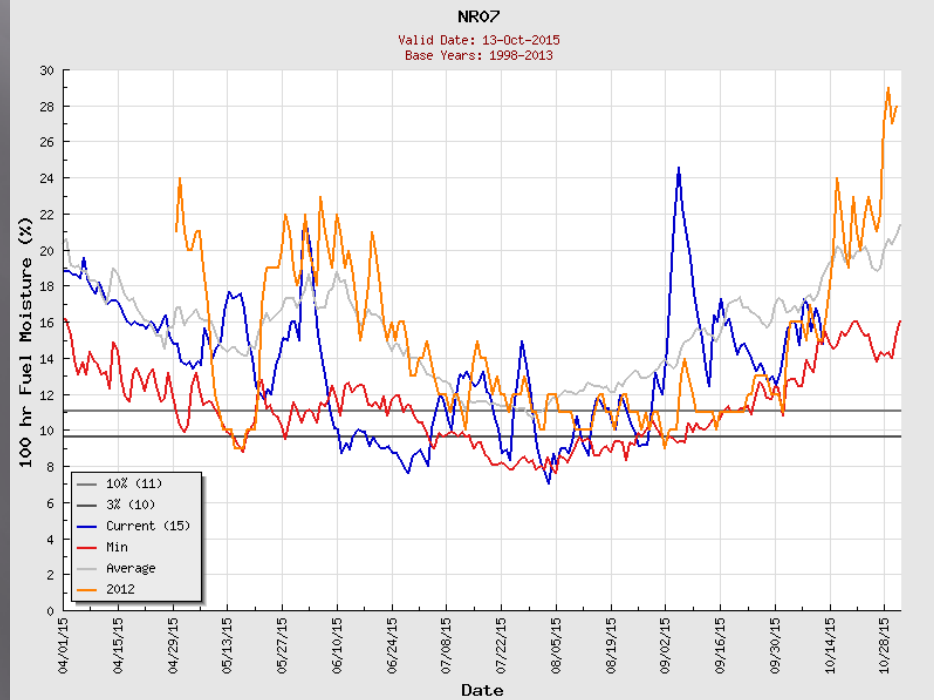
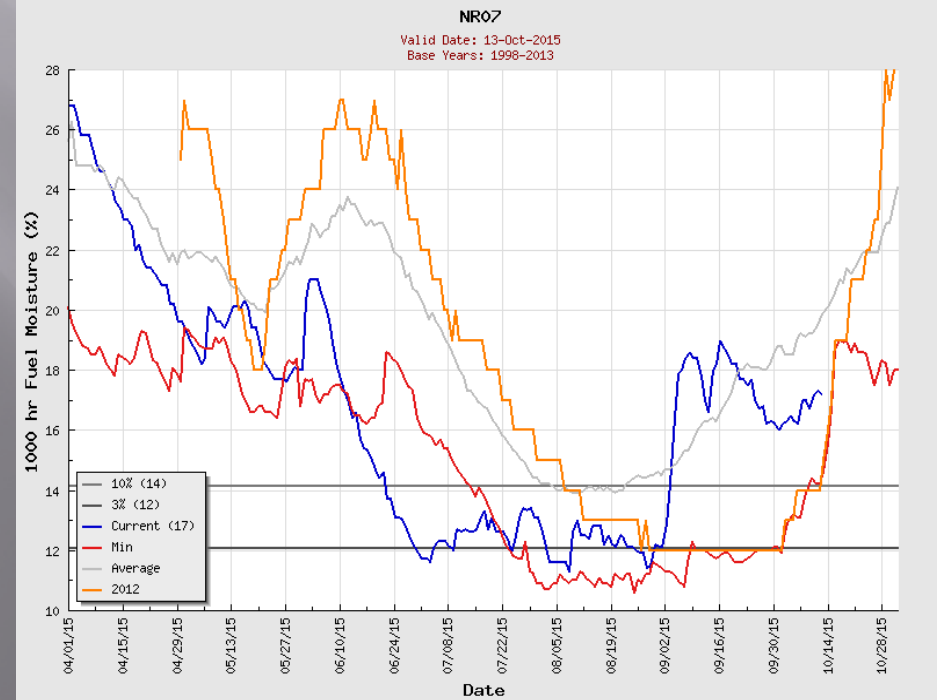
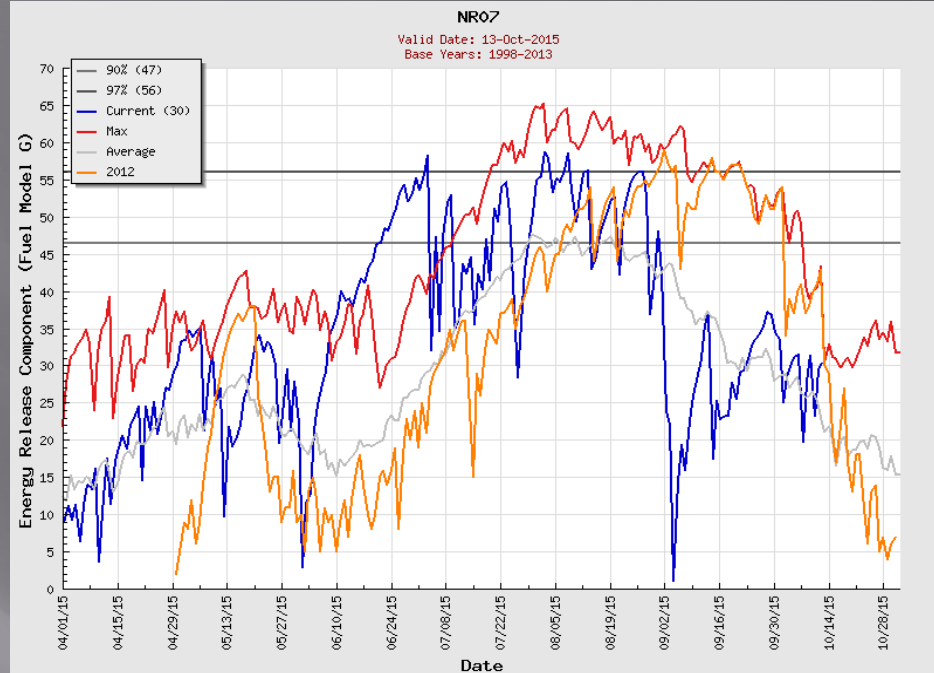


# NR07 - Glacier National Park and Wilderness Areas

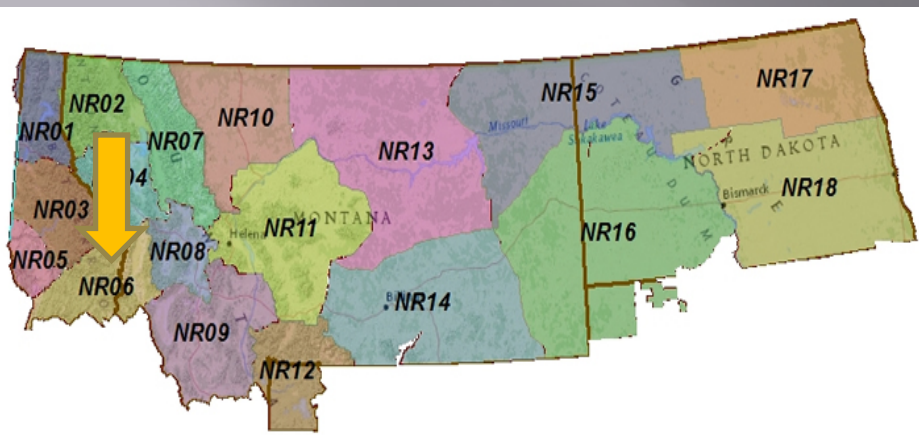


West Glacier  
Cyclone  
Condon Work Center

Hungry Horse  
Benchmark

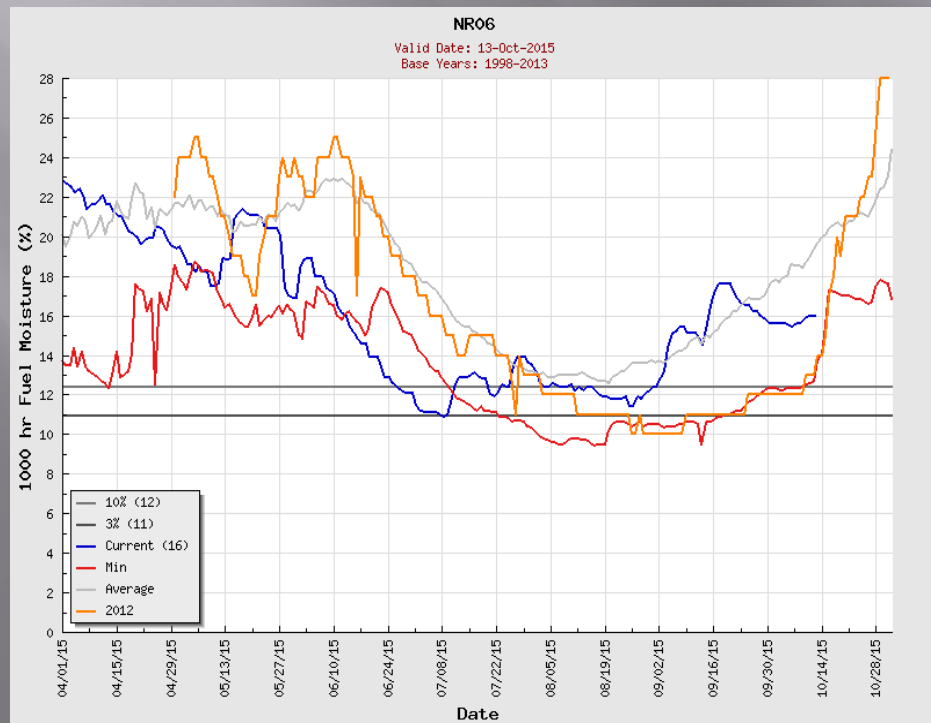
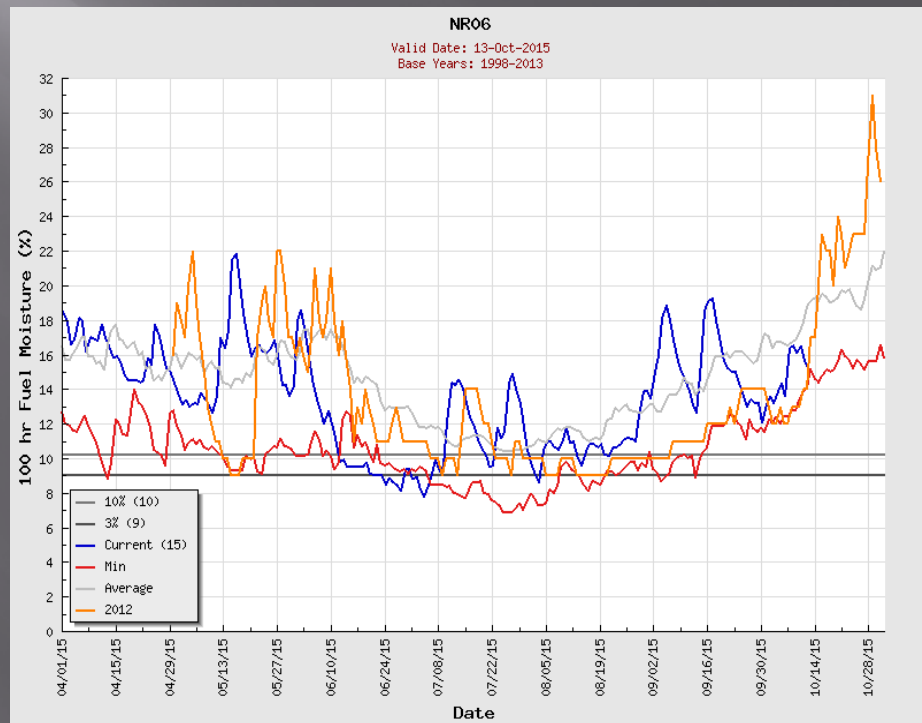
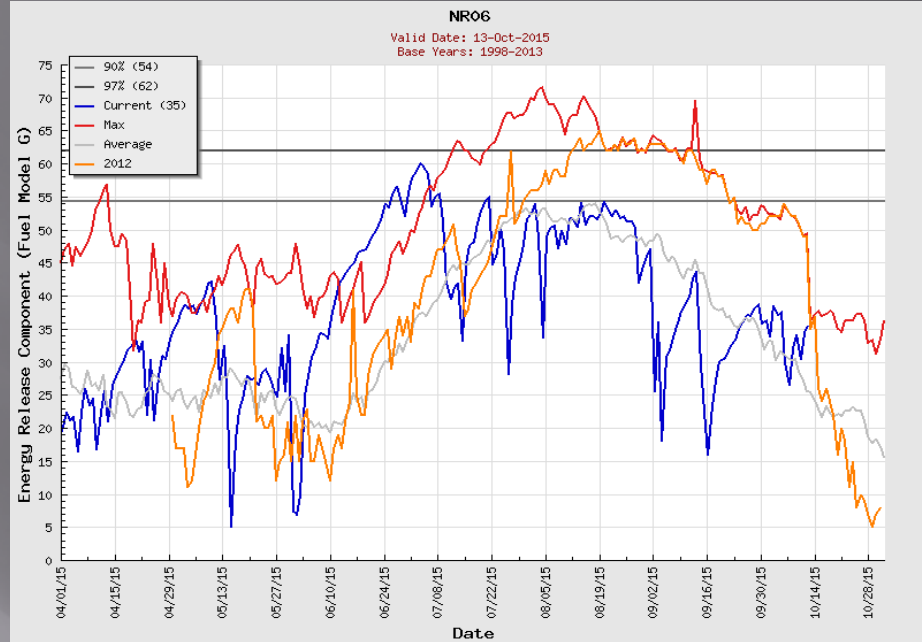


# NR06 – North Central Idaho and Bitterroot/Sapphire Mountains



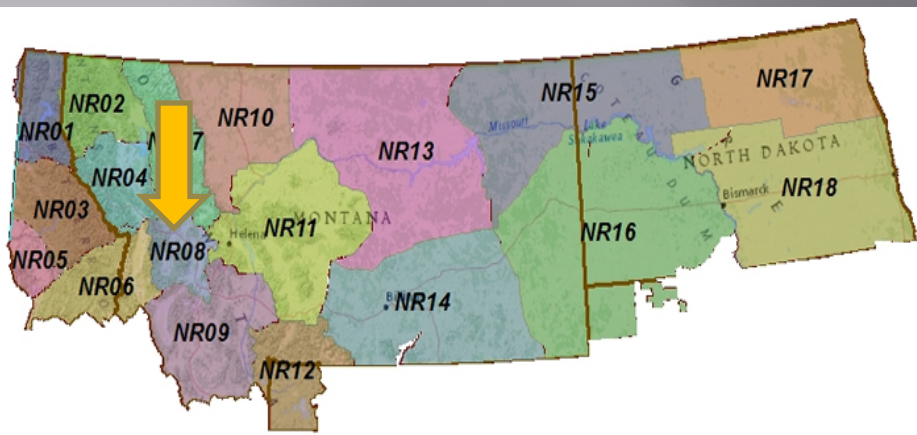
Fenn  
Powell

Stevi  
West Fork

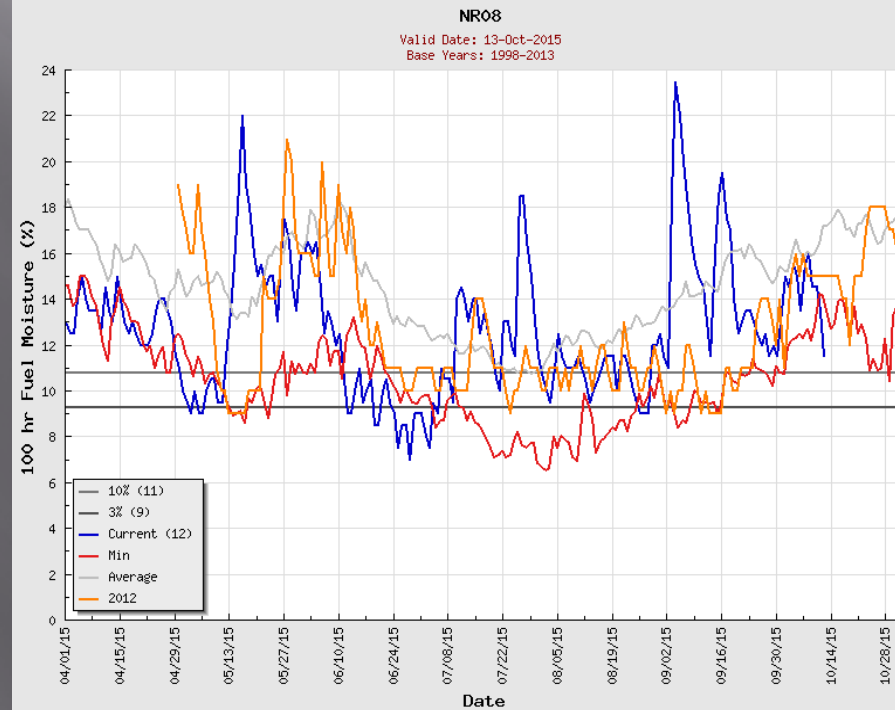
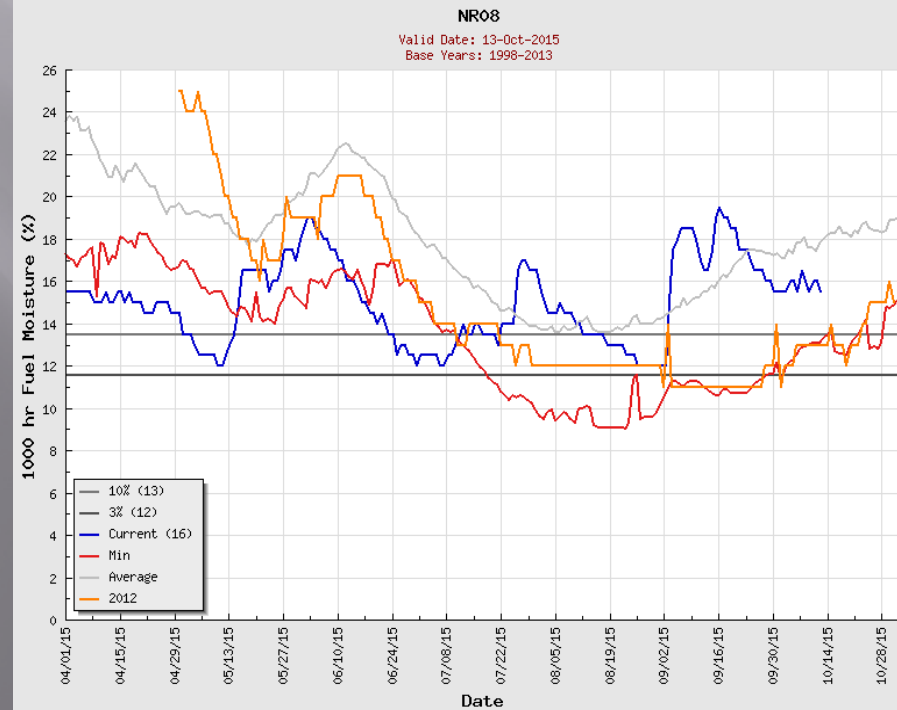
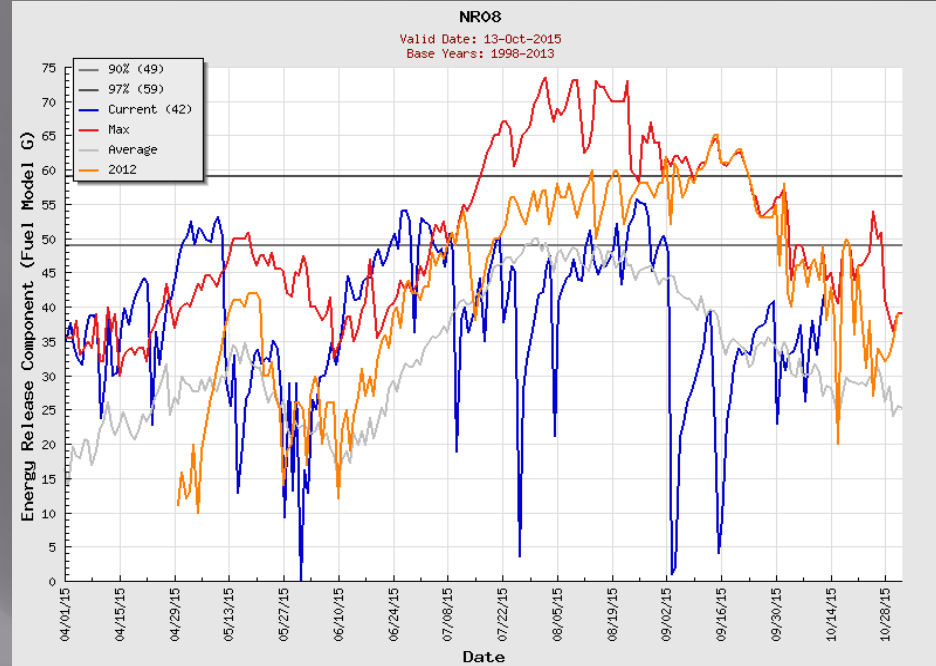




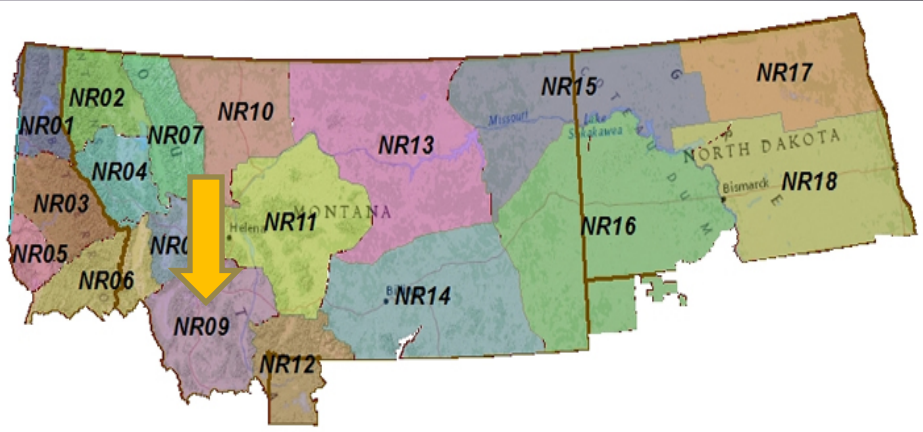
# NR08 – Southwest Montana, West of Continental Divide



Lincoln  
Phillipsburg

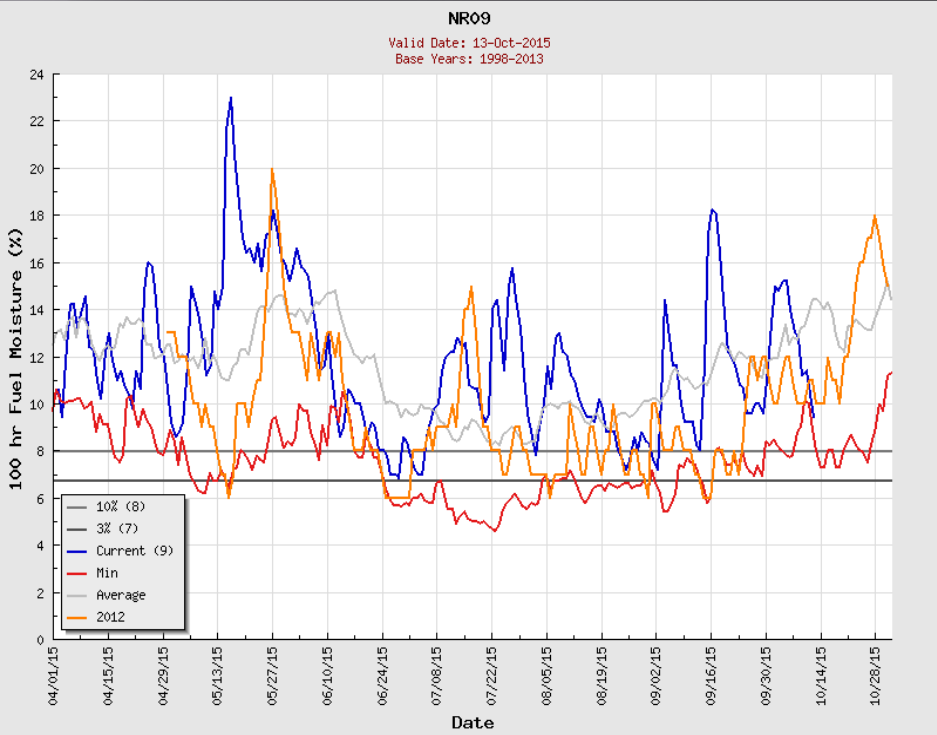
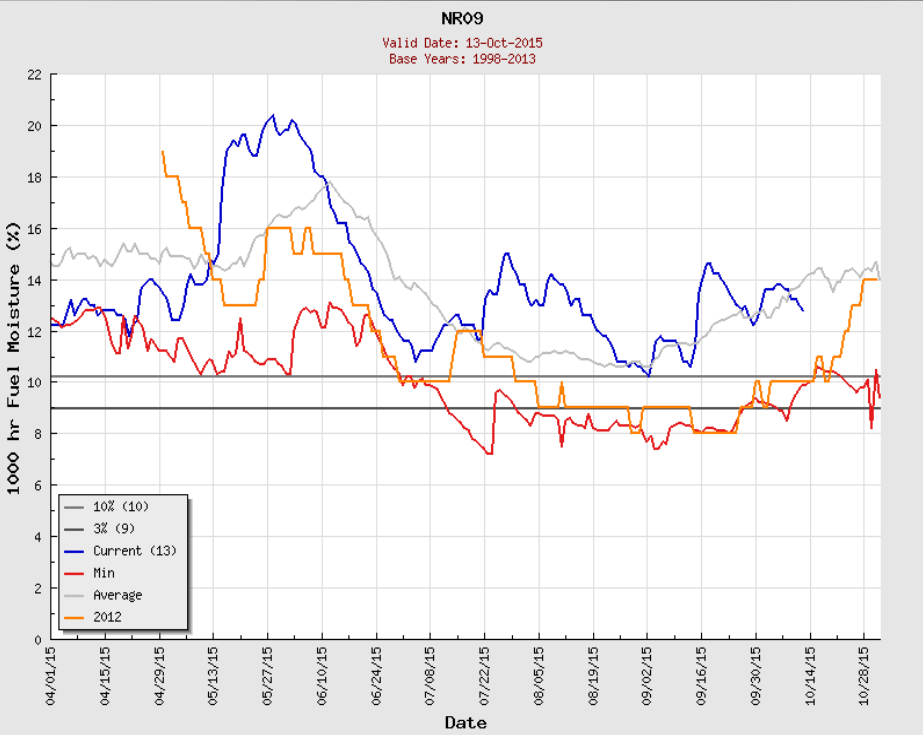
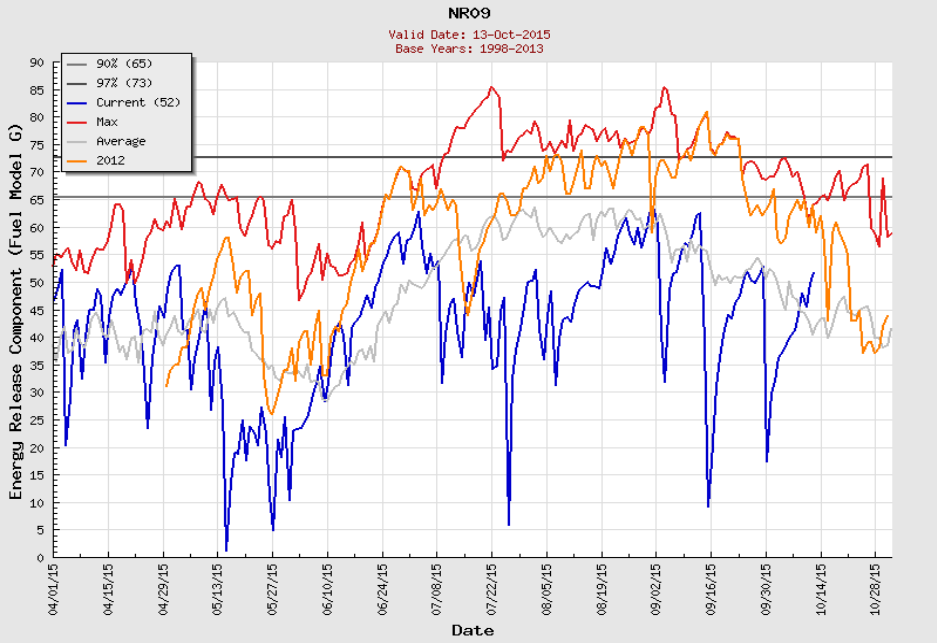


NR09 – Big Hole, Southwest Montana East of Continental Divide

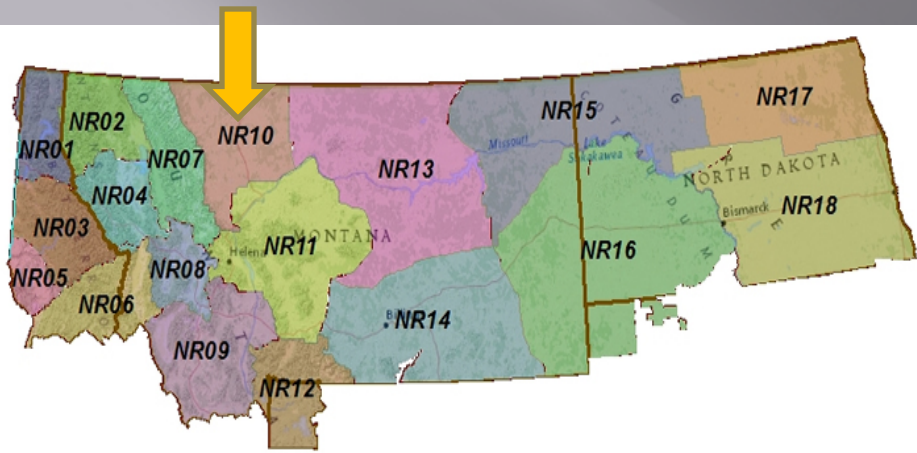


Jefferson  
Brenner

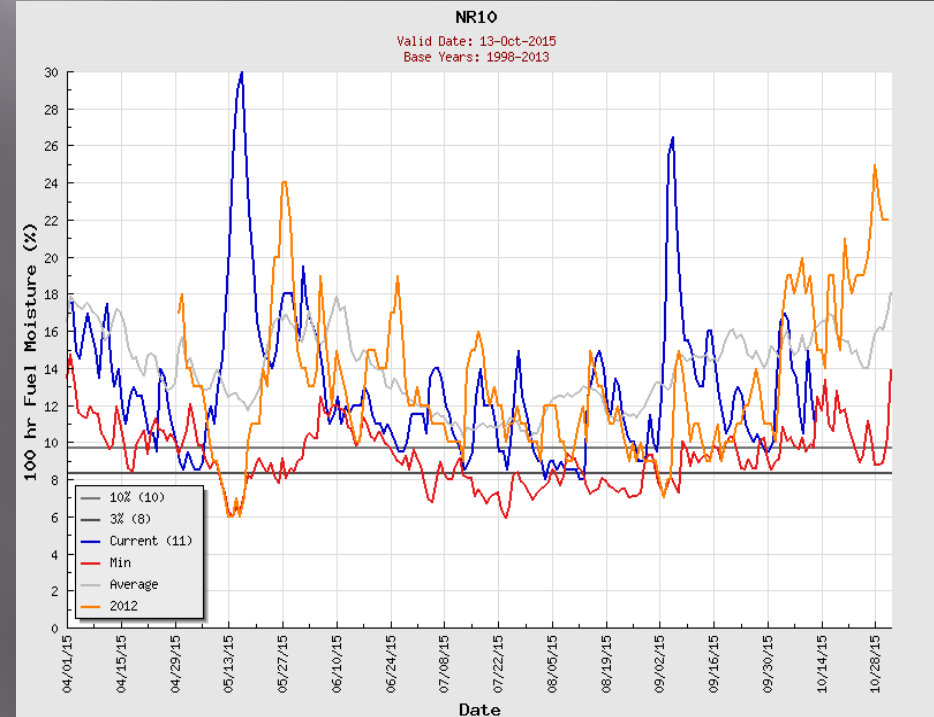
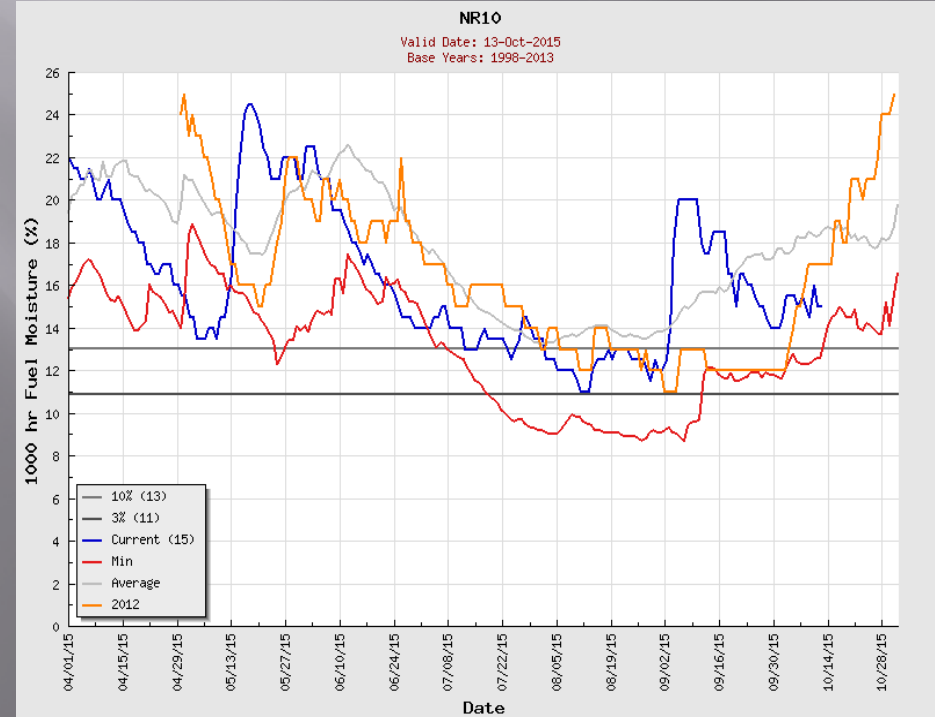
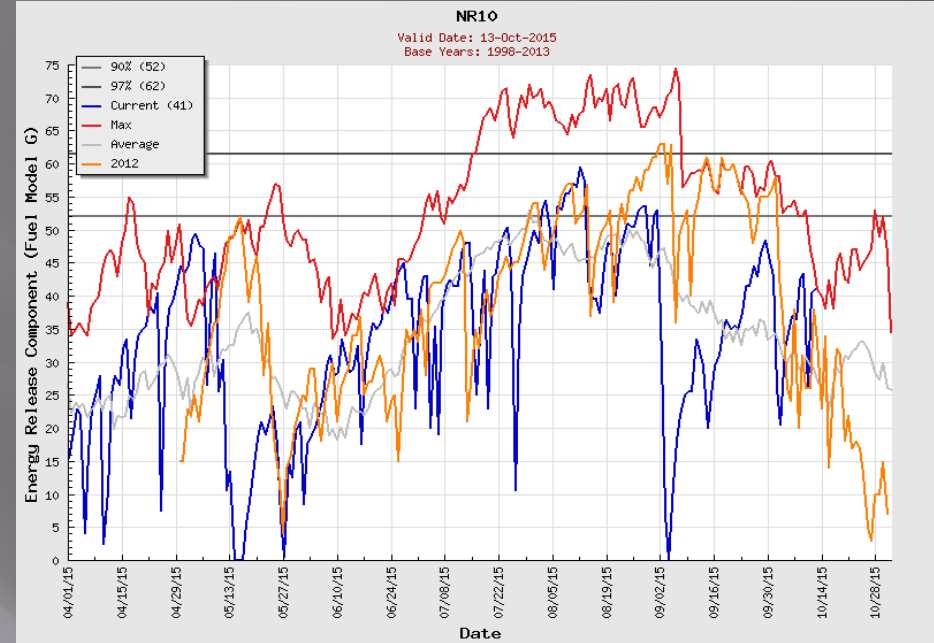
Ennis  
Wise River



## NR10 – Northern Front Range

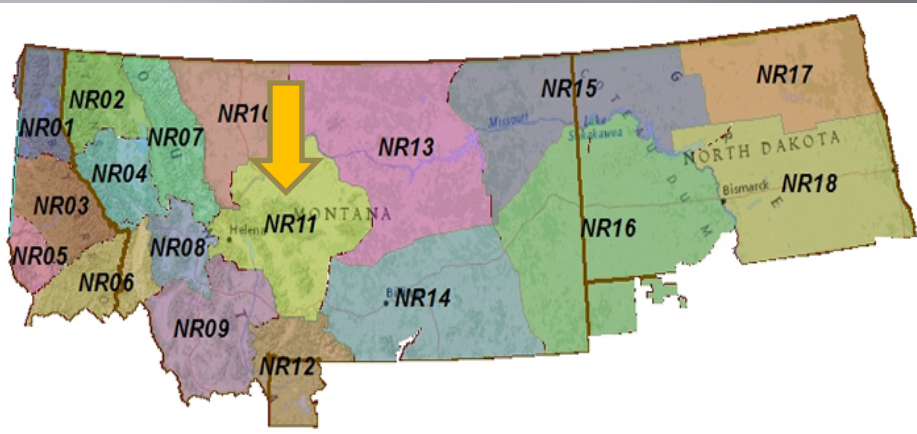


St. Mary  
Gleason

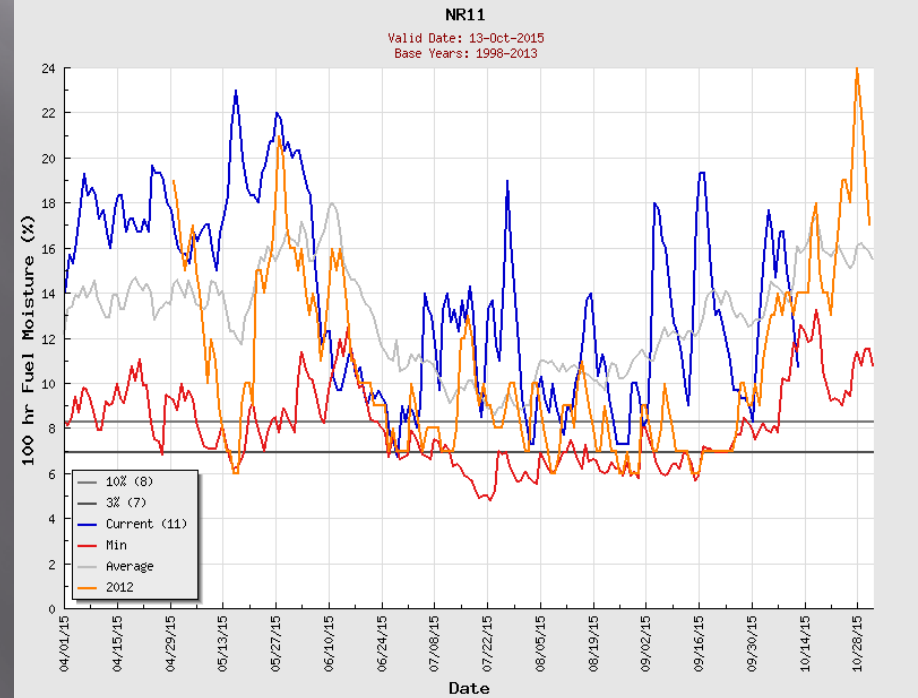
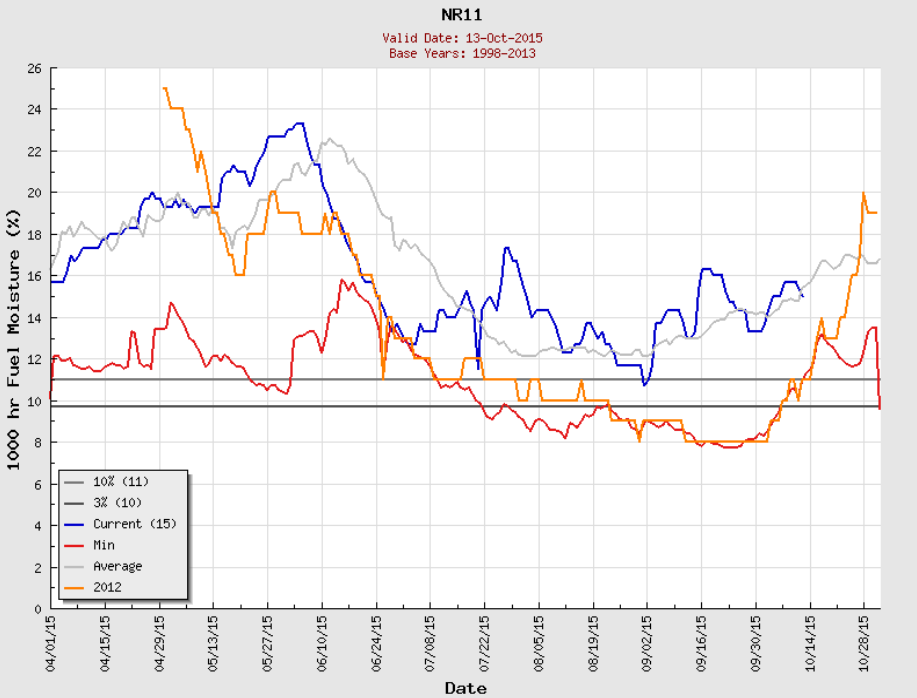
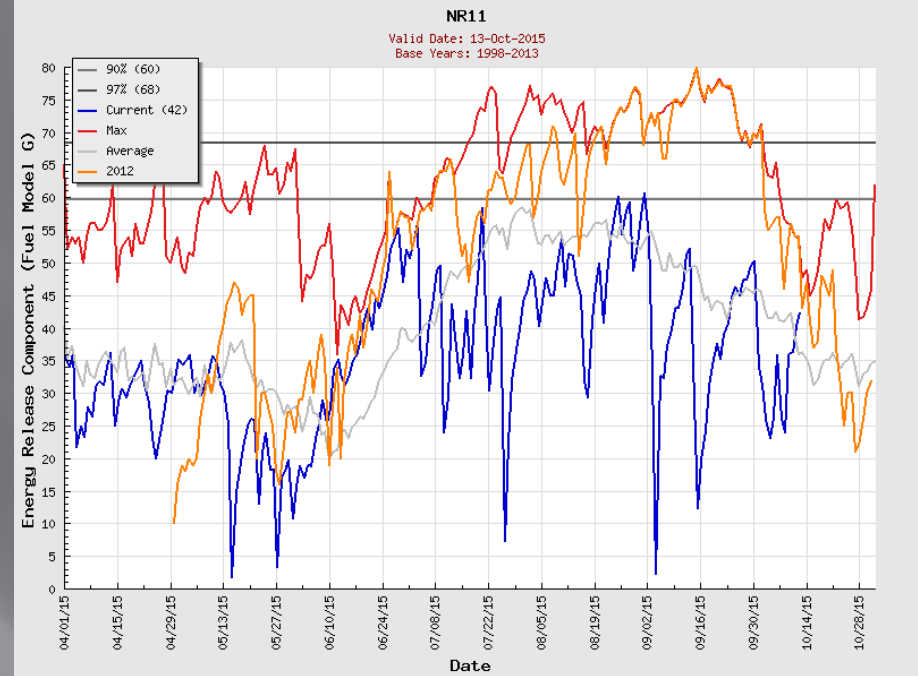




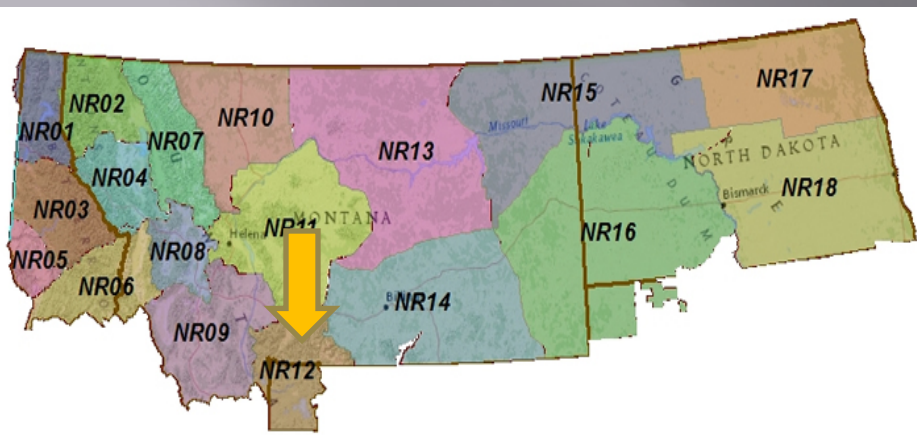
# NR11 – West Central Montana



Helena  
Porphyry  
White Sulphur Springs

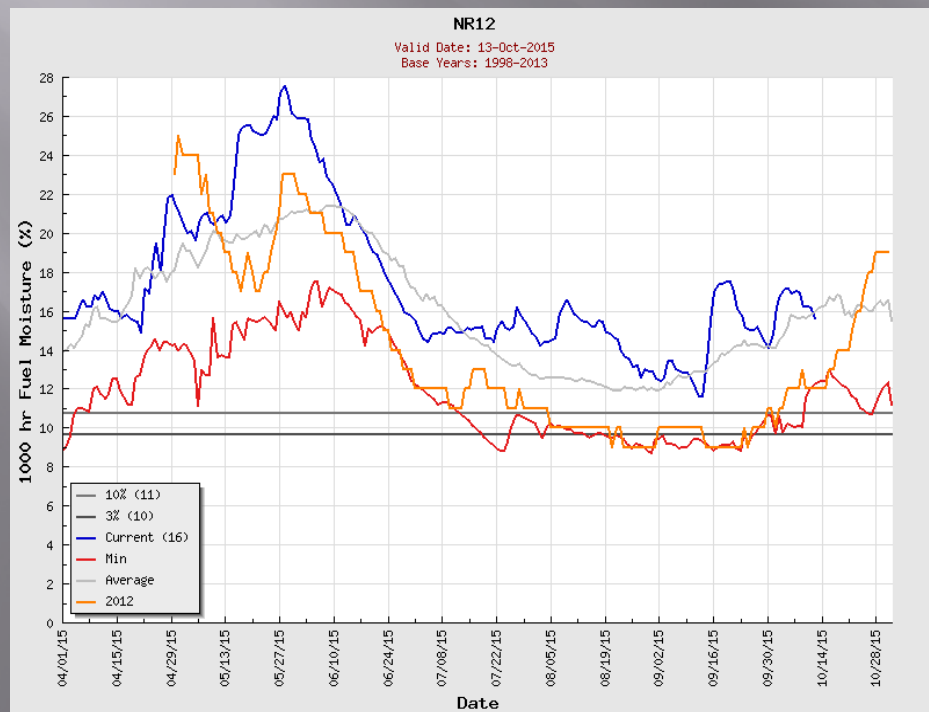
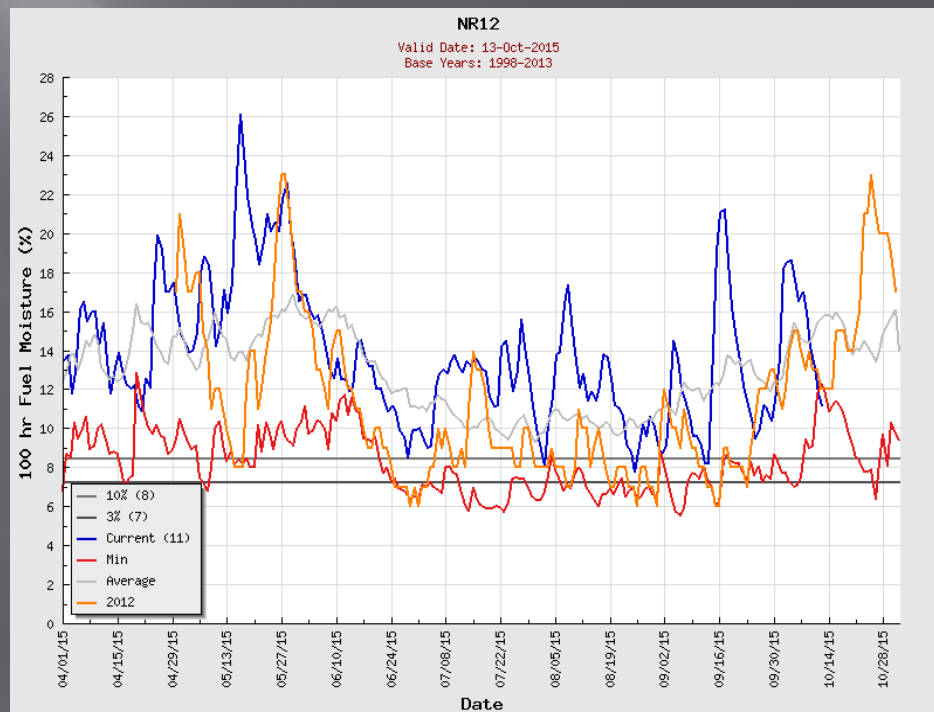
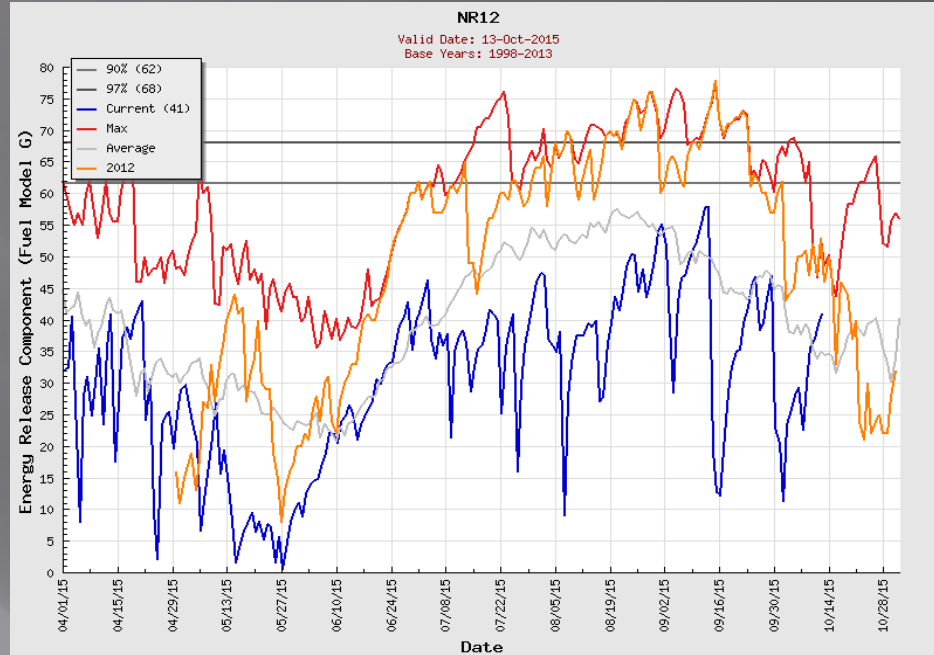


# NR12 – South Central Montana and Yellowstone YP

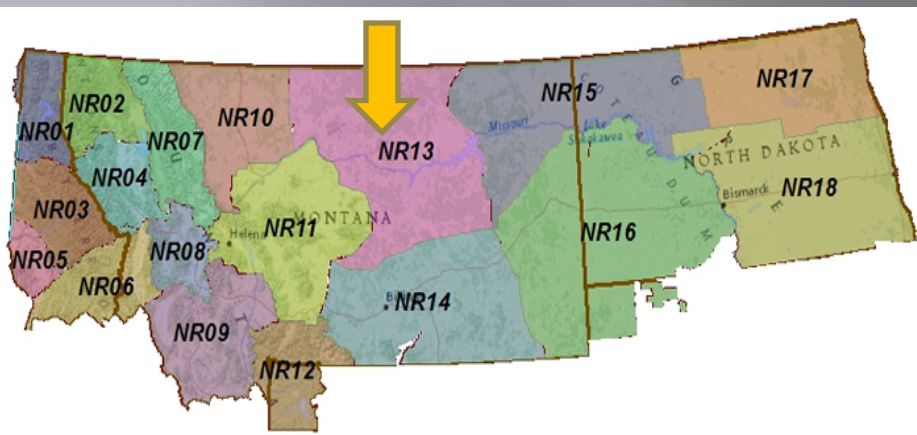


Shenango  
Fishtail  
Bechler

Hebgen Lake  
Timbercrest  
Quadrant

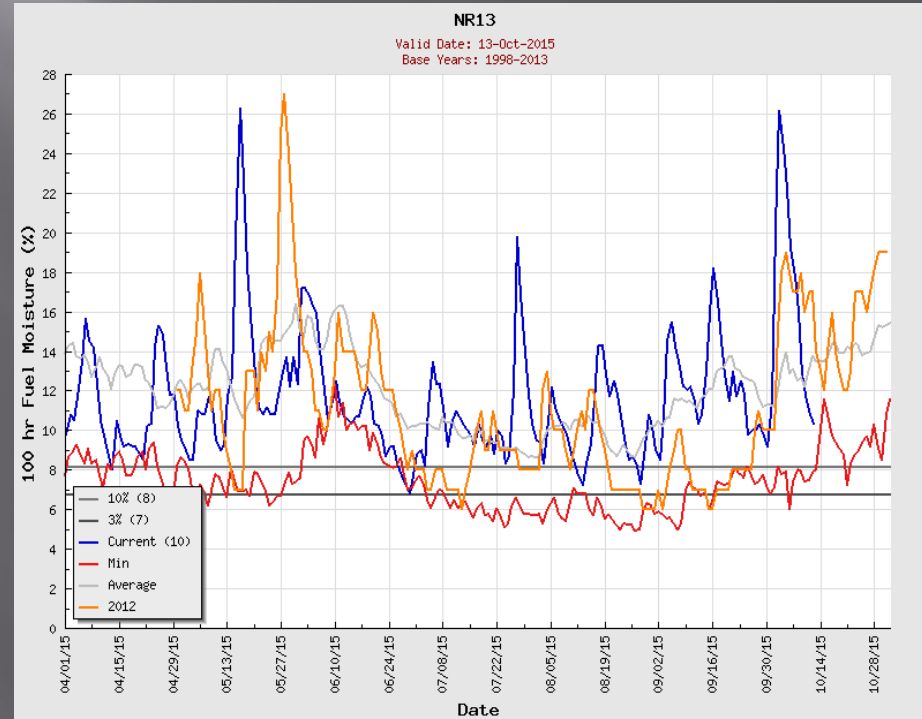
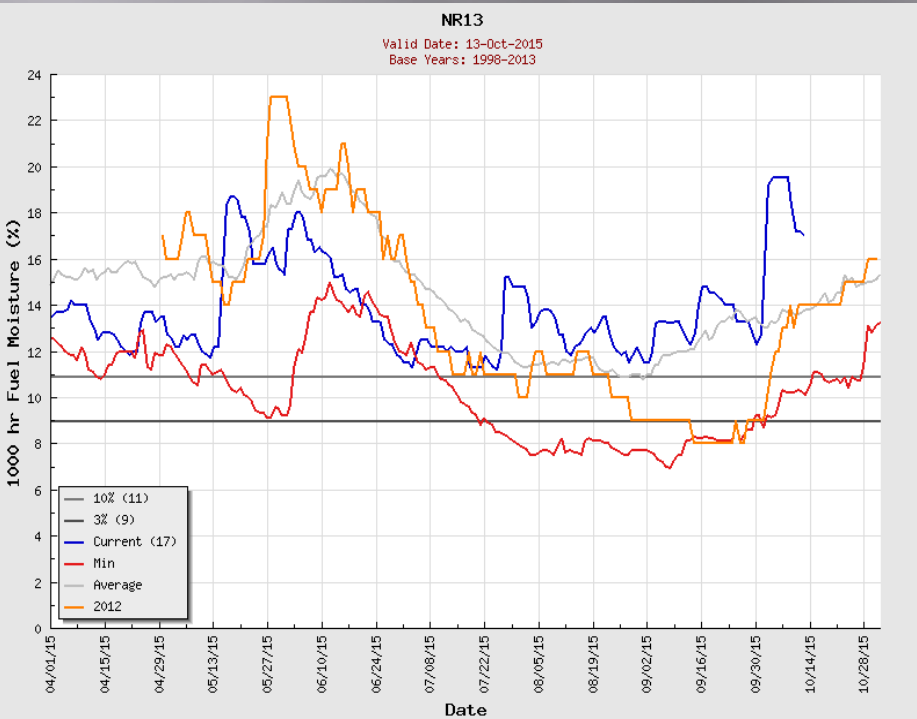
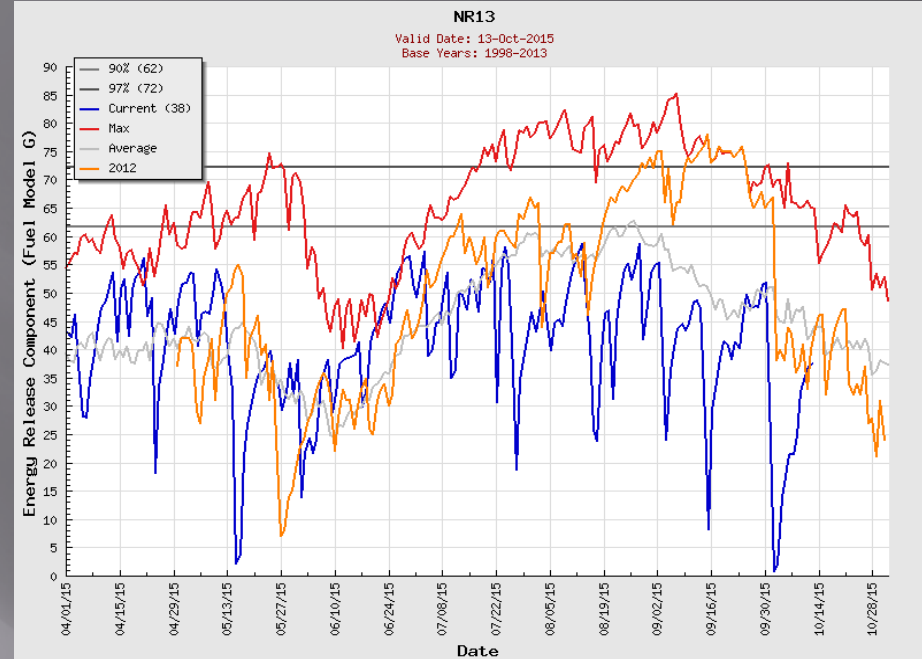


# NR13 – Northern Plains and Missouri Breaks



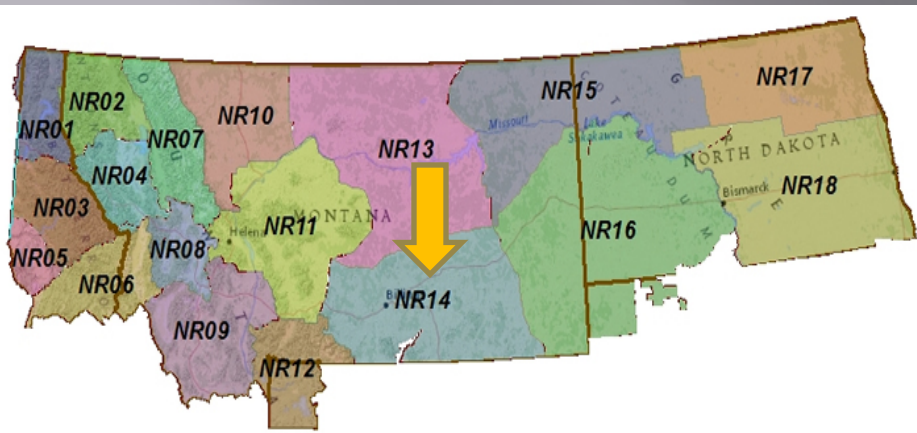
Rocky Boy  
Bluff Creek  
Armells Creek

Little Bullwhacker  
King Coulee  
South Sawmill Creek



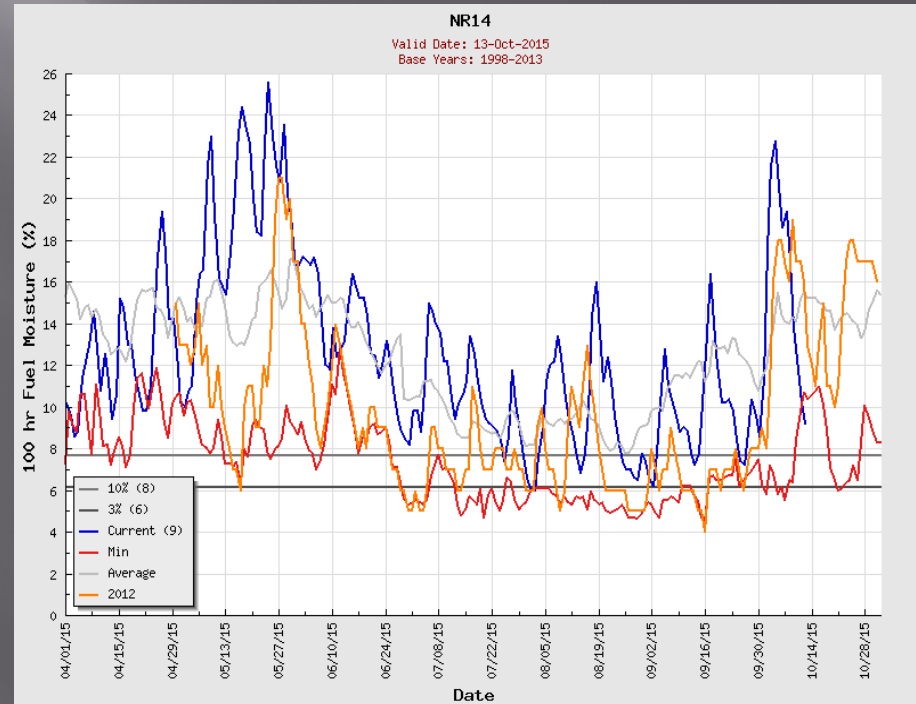
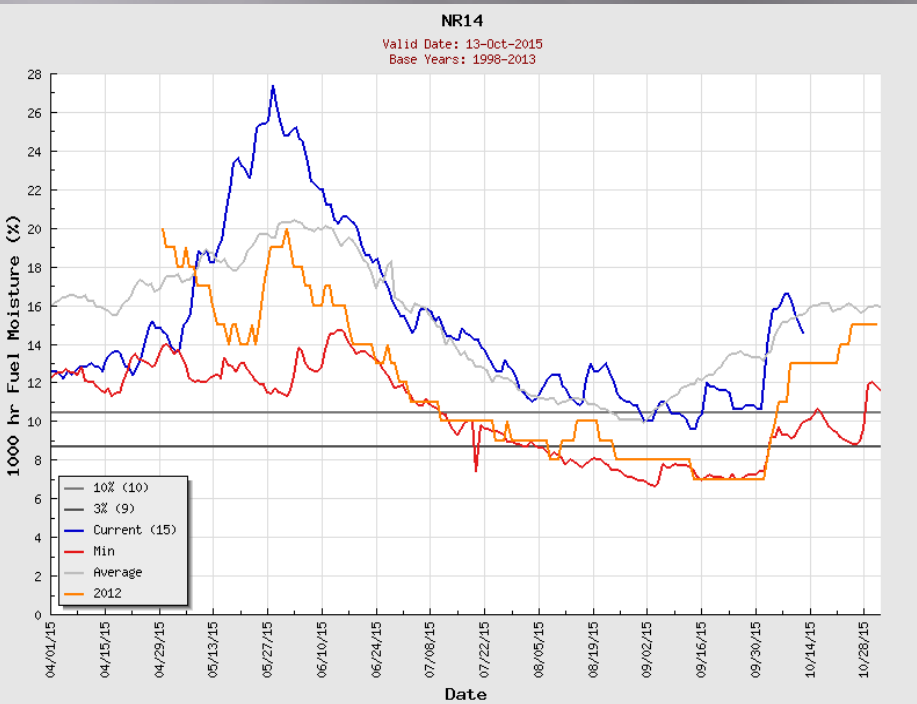
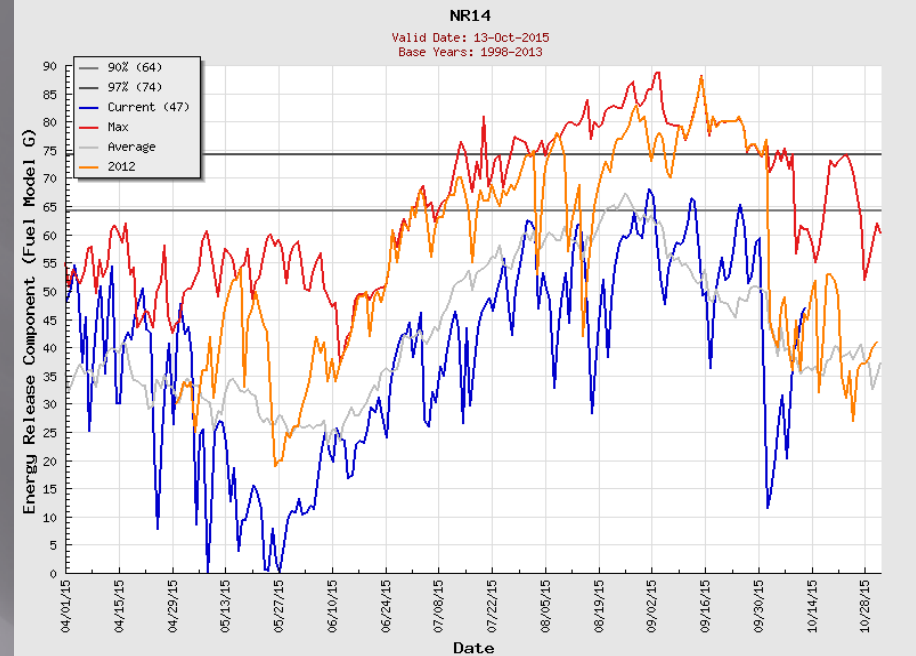


# NR14 – Southern Montana (Big Horn/Powder River)

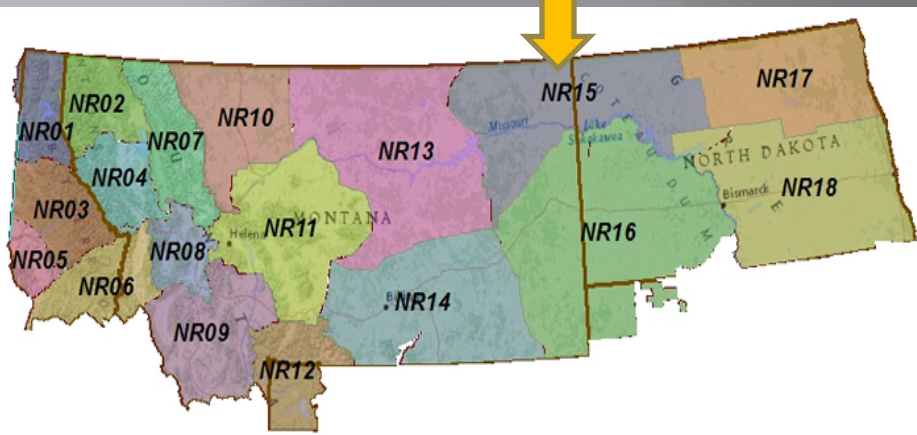


Wolf Mountain  
Bighorn Mountain  
Fort Howes

Pryor Mountain  
Badger Peak

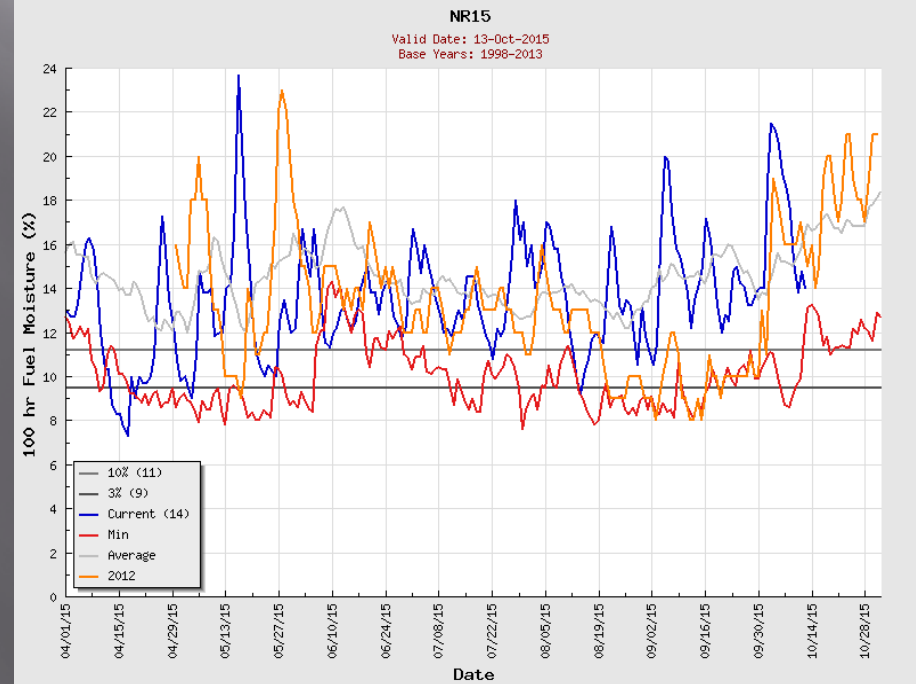
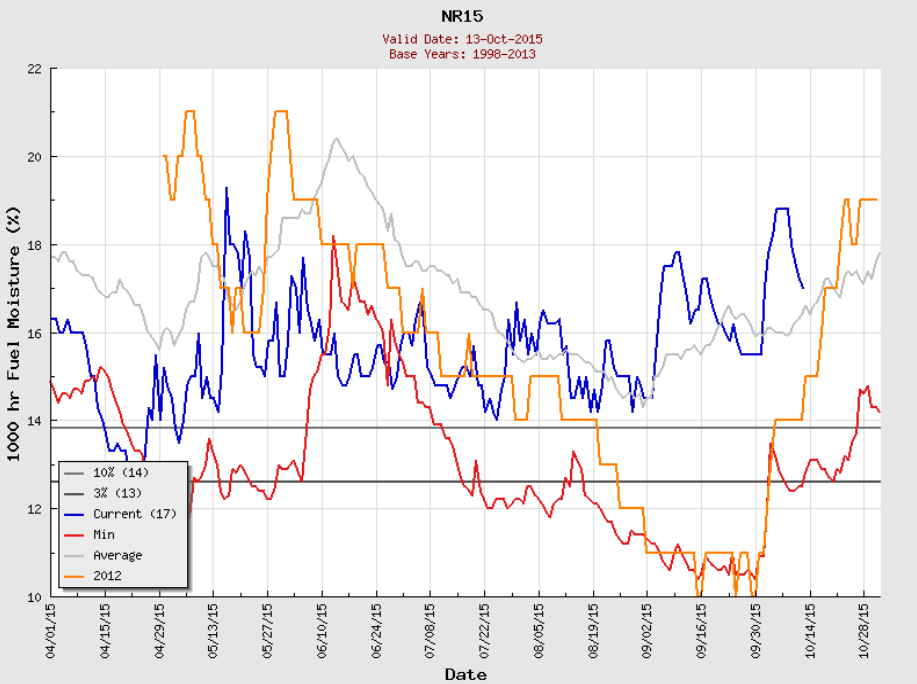
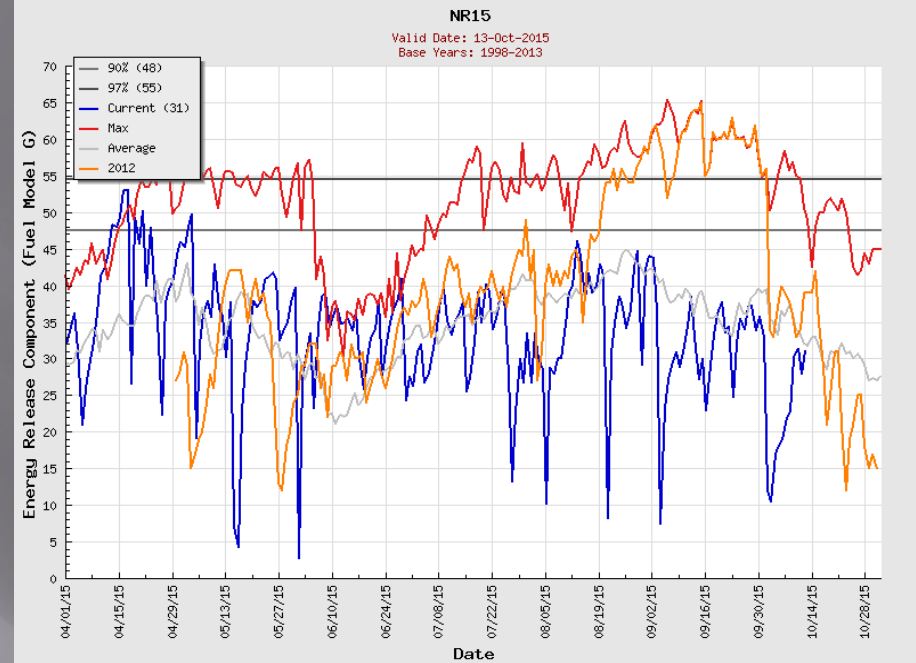


# NR15 – Northeast Montana/Northwest North Dakota

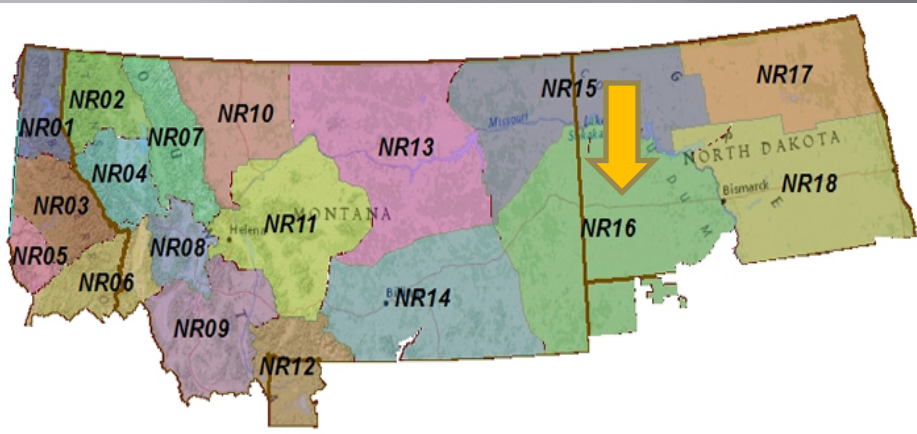


Poplar  
Lostwood

Crosby  
Watford City

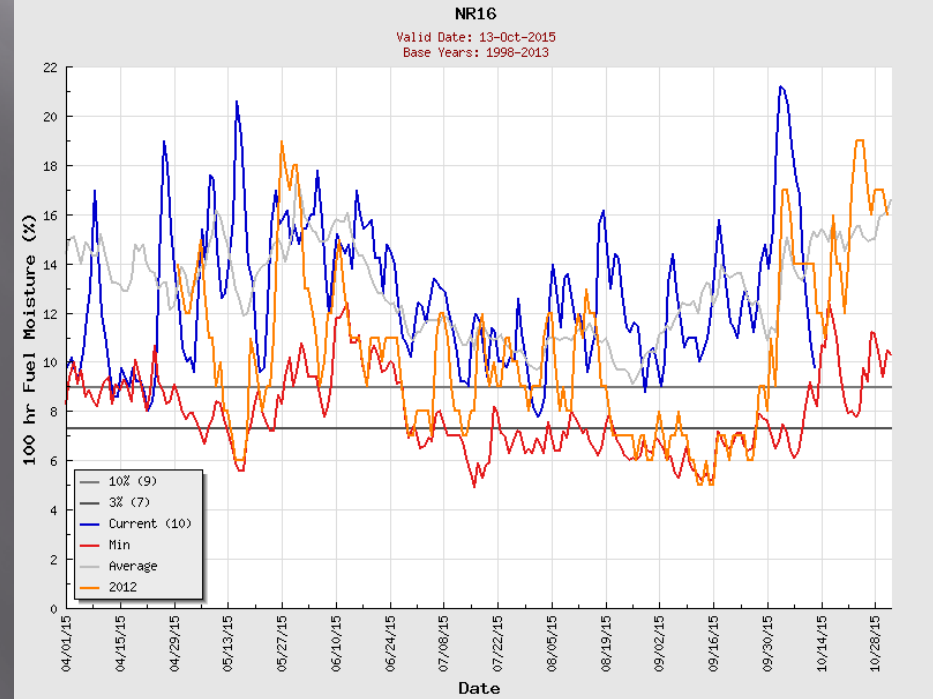
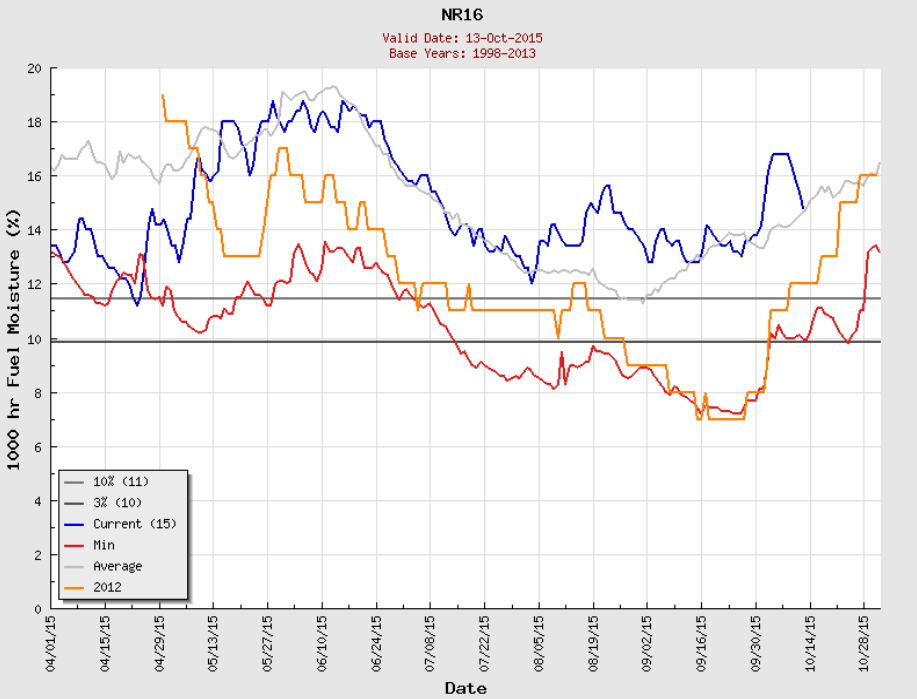
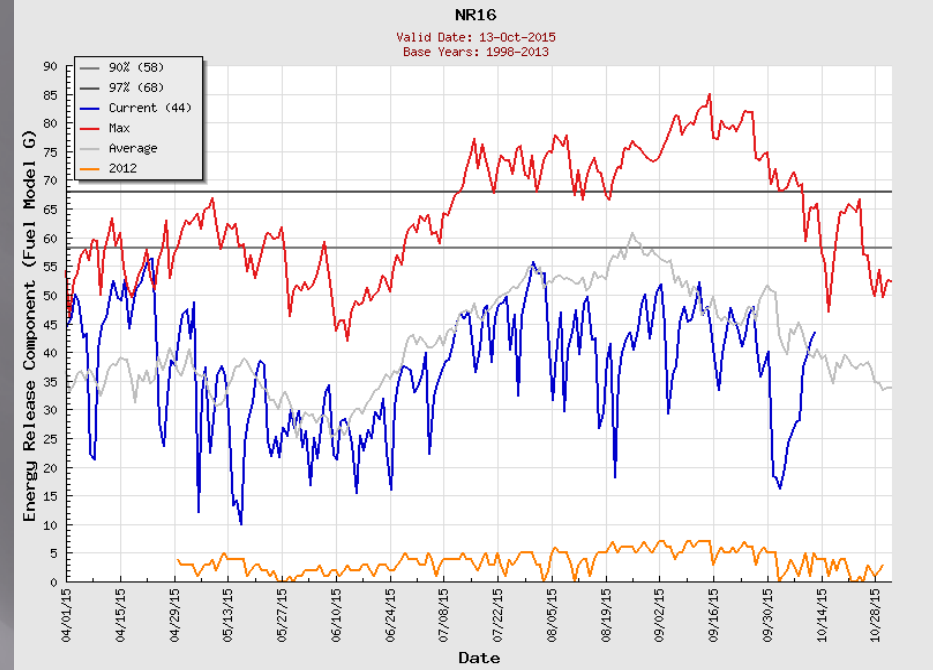


# NR16 – Southeastern Montana/Southwestern South Dakota



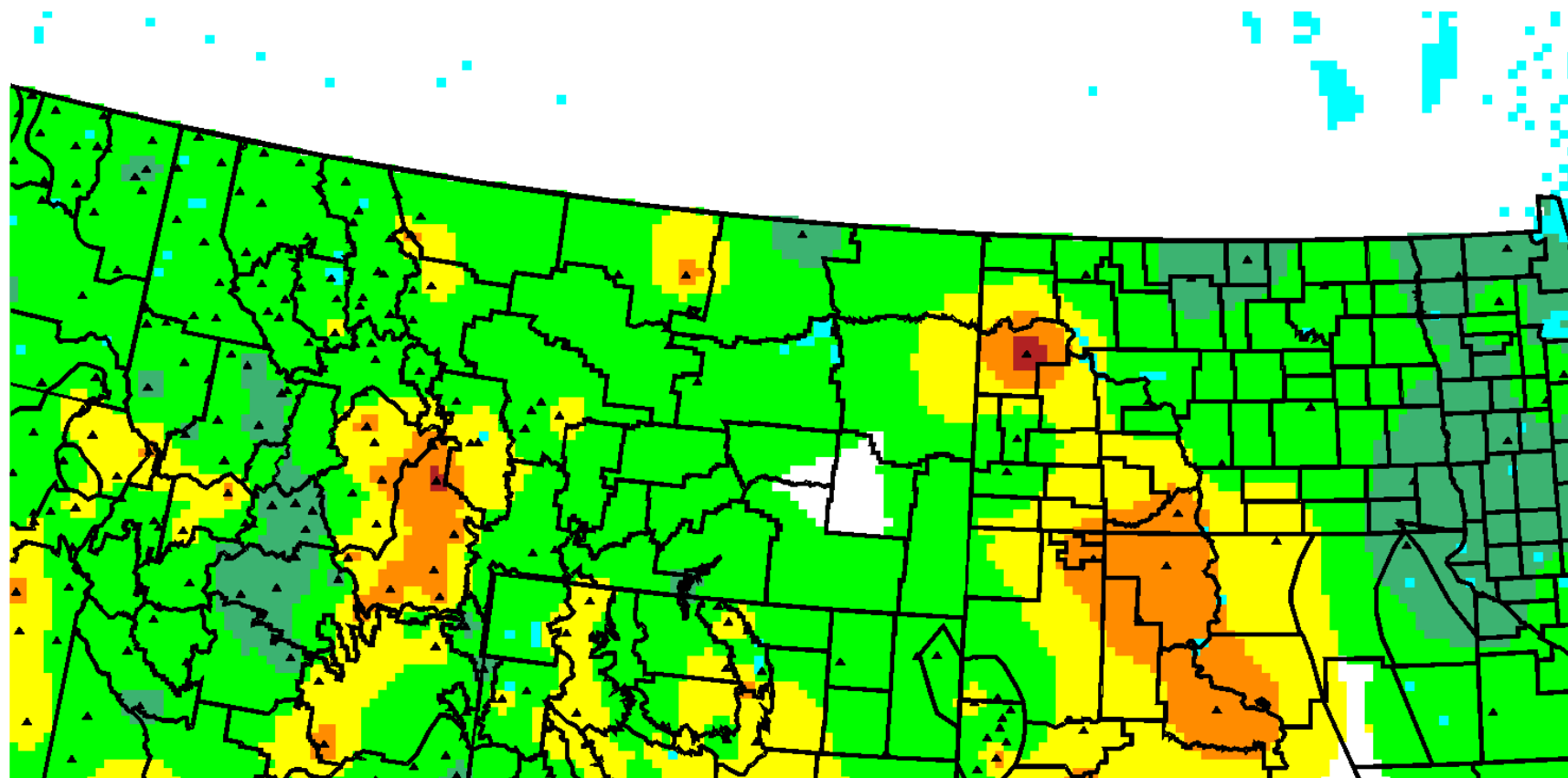
Big Sheep Mountain  
Cannonball Creek

Knowlton  
Sand Creek





# Northern Rockies Observed Fire Danger Class: 13-OCT-15 (Fire Weather Zones)



## LEGEND

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Low       | Extreme |
| Moderate  | Water   |
| High      |         |
| Very High |         |

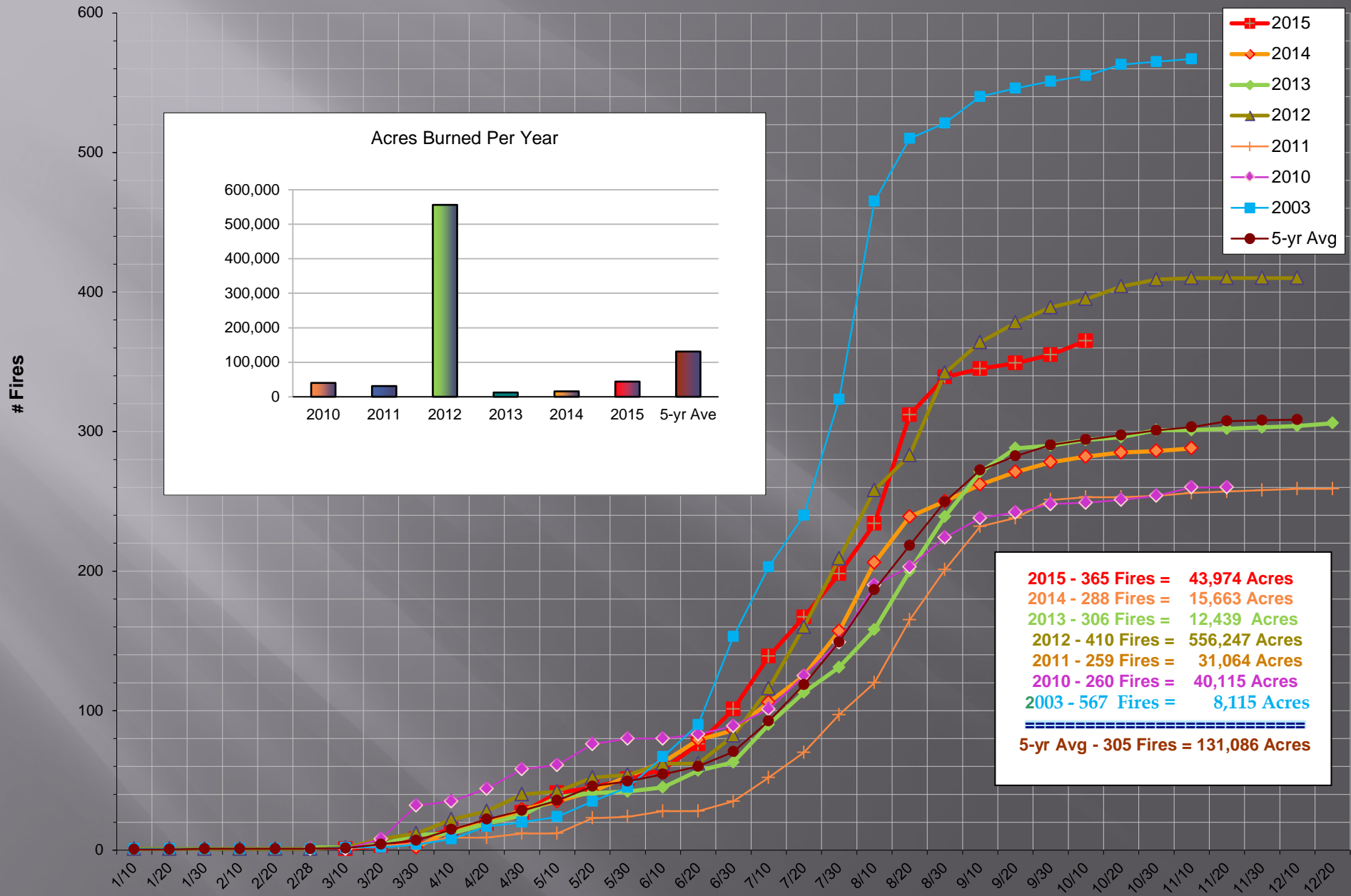
**FireLab**  
MISSOULA, MONTANA



WFAS-MAPS National Interagency Fire Center



# Fire Burned Summary - 2015





# NRCC

Northern Rockies Coordination Center

*Mobilizing Incident Resources  
...throughout Montana, North Dakota,  
Northern Idaho, a small portion of  
Northwestern South Dakota and  
Yellowstone National Park*

[National GACC Portal](#) | [NRCC Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Site Disclaimer](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

## INCIDENT INFORMATION

## PREDICTIVE SERVICES

[Intelligence](#)  
[Weather](#)  
[Fuels/Fire Danger](#)  
[Outlooks](#)

## LOGISTICS / DISPATCH

[Dispatch Operations](#)  
[Aviation](#)  
[Crews](#)  
[Equipment/Supplies](#)  
[Overhead](#)

## ADMINISTRATIVE

[Northern Rockies  
Coordinating Group](#)  
[Policy and Reports](#)  
[Incident Business  
Management](#)  
[Safety Management](#)  
[Software Applications](#)  
[Training](#)

## RELATED LINKS

[National](#)  
[Area](#)

## Welcome to the NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATION CENTER

The **Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC)** is the interagency focal point for coordinating the mobilization of resources for wildland fire and other all-hazard incidents throughout the Northern Rockies Area and, when necessary, for assignment throughout the United States. Located in Missoula, Montana, the Center also provides Intelligence and Predictive Services related products for use by the wildland fire community for purposes of wildland fire and incident management decision-making.

There are five primary components to the NRCC website.

- [Incident Information](#) provides general information on large wildland fires, fire restrictions and closures, and other relevant activity throughout the Geographic Area.
- [Predictive Services](#) provides operational products and links to incident situation information, maps, resources, current fire weather conditions, forecasts, fuels, fire behavior as well as daily, weekly and monthly fire weather/fire danger outlooks.
- [Logistics/Dispatch](#) provides detailed operation and information links for aviation, crews, equipment and overhead, including Incident Management Teams.
- [Administrative](#) provides fire and incident management tools and links including policies and reports, business management, safety, software applications, and training.
- [Related Links](#) component provides links to related Internet websites within the Northern Rockies Area and nationally.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### SITUATION

#### PREPAREDNESS LEVELS

Northern Rockies PL: **1**  
National PL: **1**

[Situation Reports](#)

[Year-to-Date & Historical Wildfire Data](#)

... [Restrictions & Closures](#) ...

### SAFETY ALERTS

[NRGA Landscape Mortality Safety Alert](#)  
[NRGA Landscape Mortality Pocket Card](#)

[Coal Seam Fires Safety](#)

COOPERATING FEDERAL, STATE AND OTHER AGENCIES IN THE NORTHERN ROCKIES AREA





HAPPY TRAILS!!





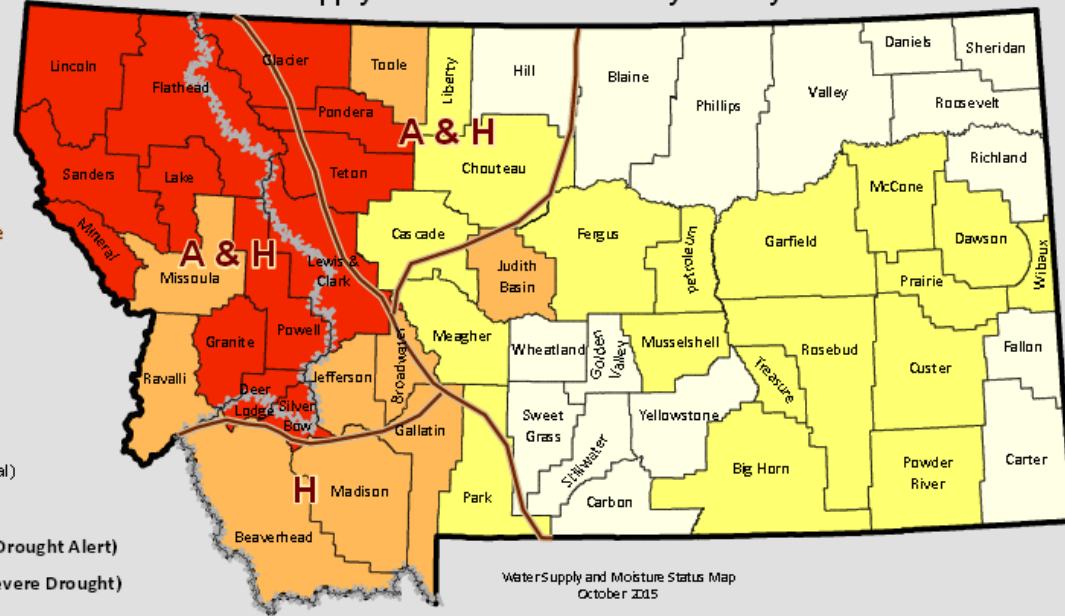
# Montana Drought and Water Supply

Status change from September to October 2015 – Assessed 10/13/2015  
(All changes one category unless otherwise noted)

Wetter		No Change			Drier
Chouteau	Lincoln	Glacier	Blaine	Wibaux	Gallatin
Cascade	Flathead	Pondera	Phillips	Wheatland	Powder River
Meagher	Sanders	Teton	Valley	Musselshell	
Golden Valley	Lake	Lewis and	Daniels	Sweet Grass	
Sheridan	Mineral	Clark	Roosevelt	Stillwater	
	Missoula	Toole	Judith Basin	Carbon	
	Powell	Liberty	Fergus	Yellowstone	
	Ravalli	Jefferson	Petroleum	Big Horn	
	Granite	Broadwater	Garfield	Treasure	
	Deer Lodge	Beaverhead	McCone	Rosebud	
	Silver Bow	Madison	Richland	Custer	
		Park	Dawson	Fallon	
		Hill	Prairie	Carter	



Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - October 2015

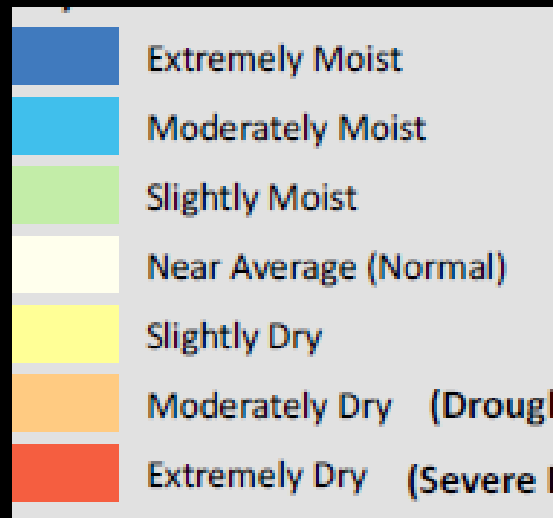


# Montana Drought Status

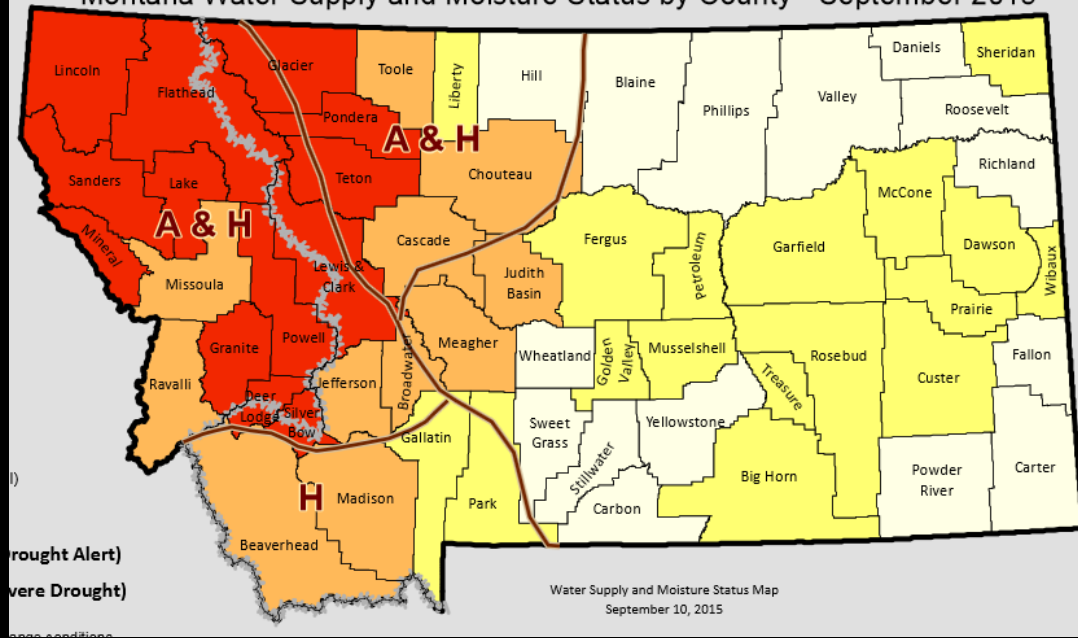
## October 2015

### vs.

## September 2015



Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - September 2015





# Montana Drought & Water Supply Advisory Committee

October 15, 2015

National Weather Service

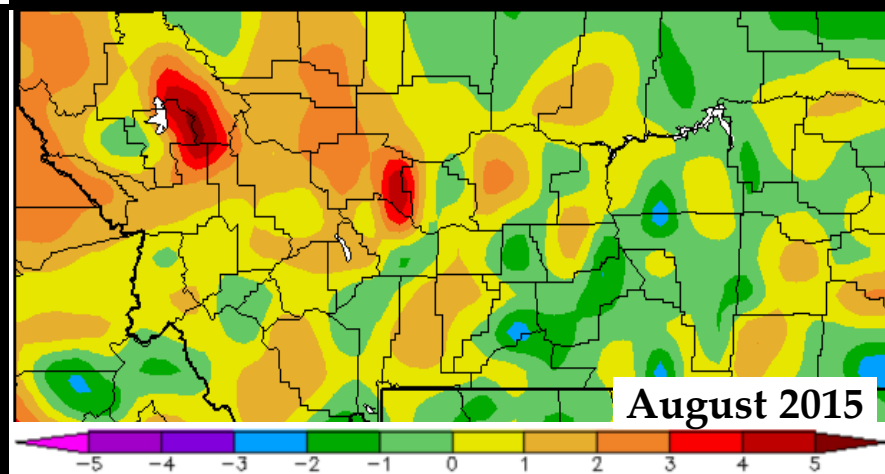
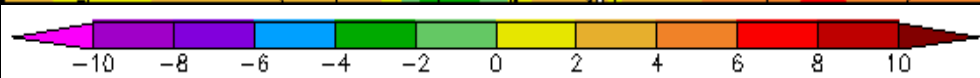
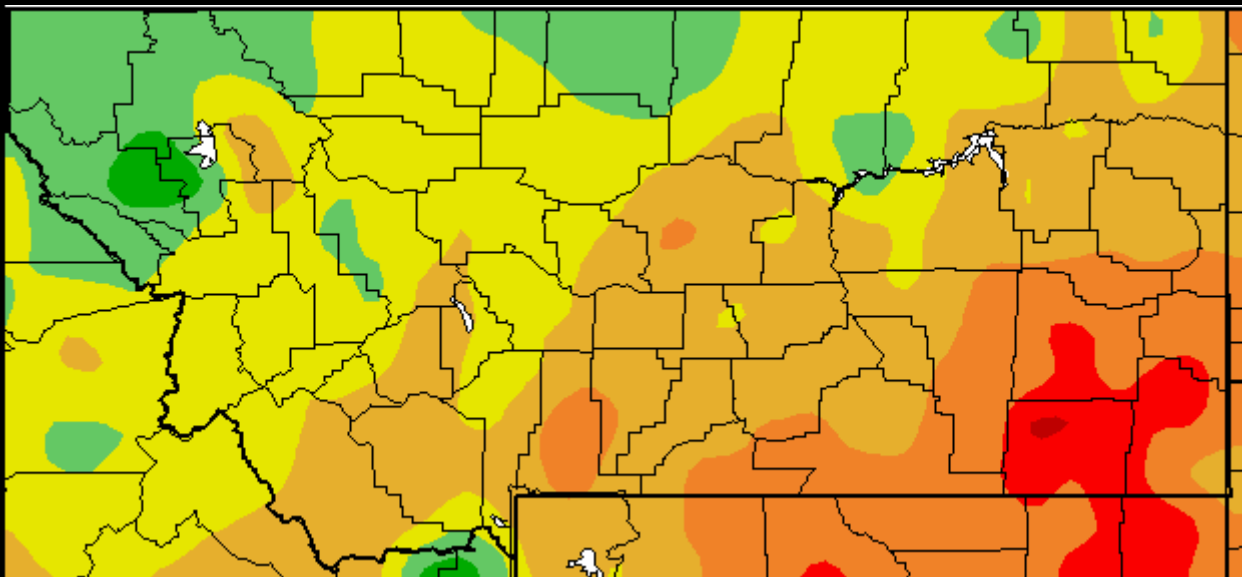
*Gina Loss – Service Hydrologist*



# Departure from Average Temperature

## September 2015

- Mostly near average over northwest half
- Southeast half 2 to 8 °F above average

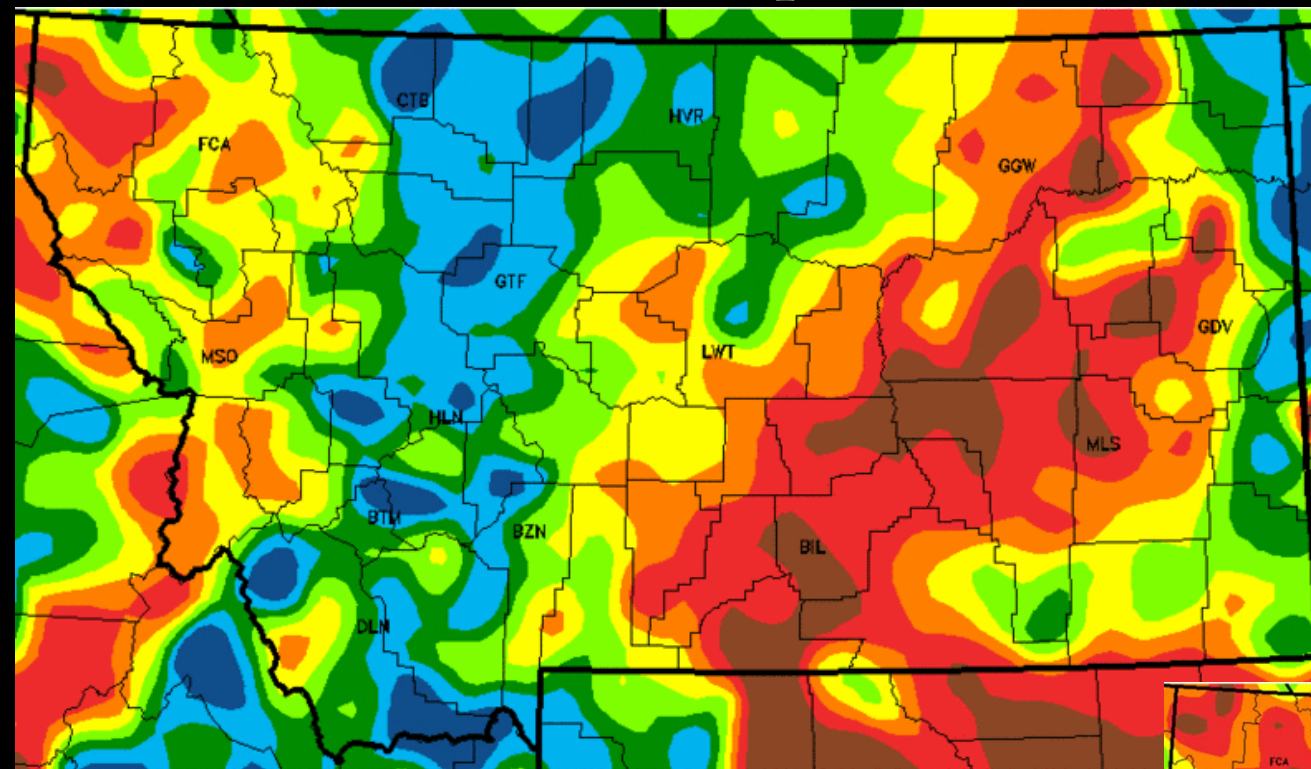


August 2015



# Percent of Average Precipitation September 2015

- Rocky Mountain Front and adjacent plains... above to well above average
- West of Continental Divide and eastern plains... below to well below average

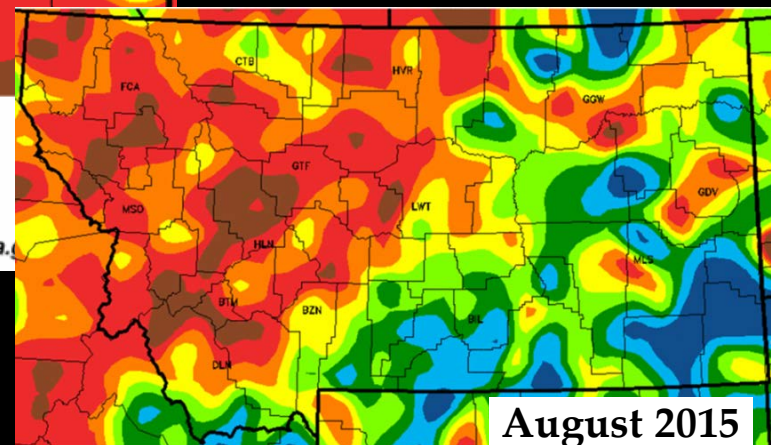


September 2015 Percent of Normal Precipitation  
Period of Normal: 1981–2010

20 40 60 85 115 150 200 400

NOTE: Data used to generate this image are  
PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov>



August 2015

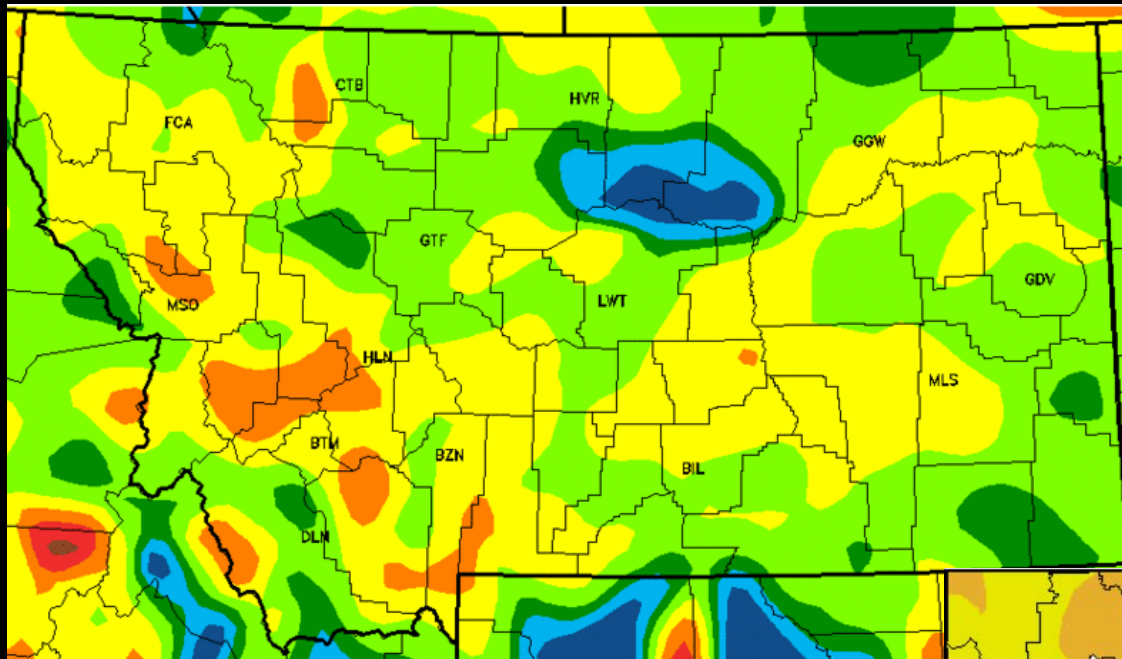




# Percent of Normal Precipitation

## Water Year 2015

- October - September
- Mostly near to below average
- West and southwest has areas well below average
- Area in central Montana well above average
- Areas northwest and south-central to east with 3 – 6 inch deficits

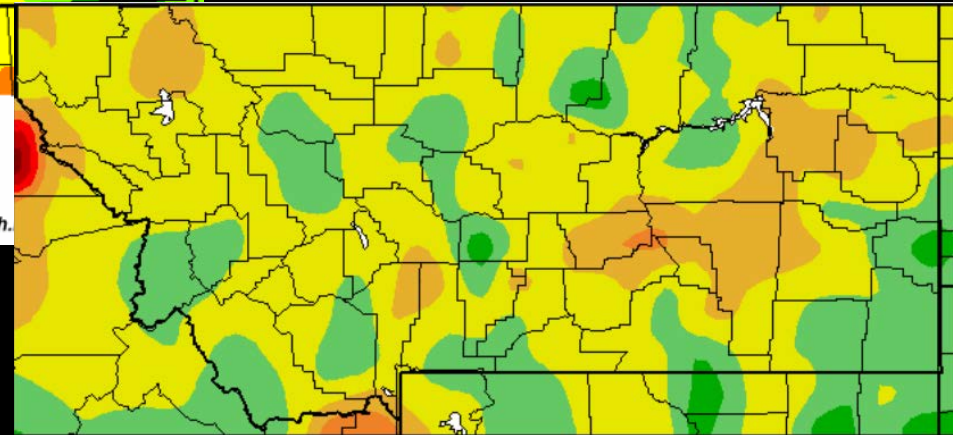


Oct 2014–Sep 2015 Percent of Normal Precipitation  
Period of Normal: 1981–2010

20 40 60 85 115 150 200 400

NOTE: Data used to generate this image are  
PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<http://www.wrh>



Departure from Average in Inches

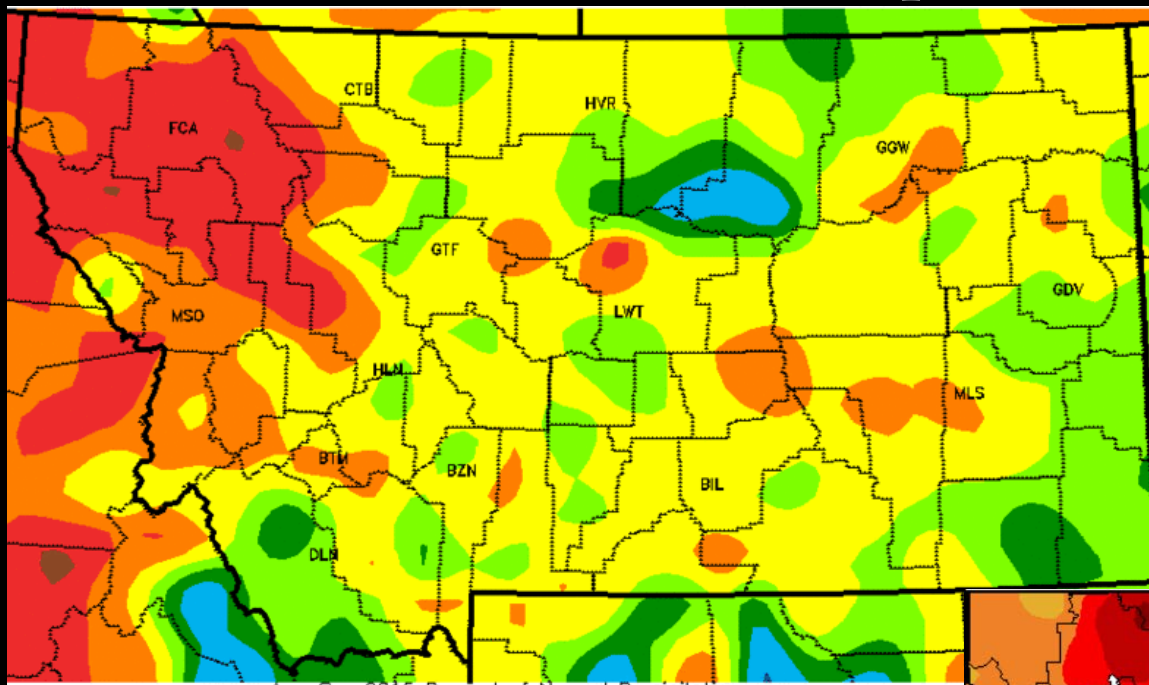
-15 -12 -9 -6 -3 0 3 6 9 12 15



# Percent of Normal Precipitation

## Crop Year

- April - September
- West well below average
  - Areas with 6 – 10 inch deficits
- Remainder of state mostly near to below average
  - Areas south-central and east with 2 – 6 inch deficits
- Some improvement along Rocky Mountain Front

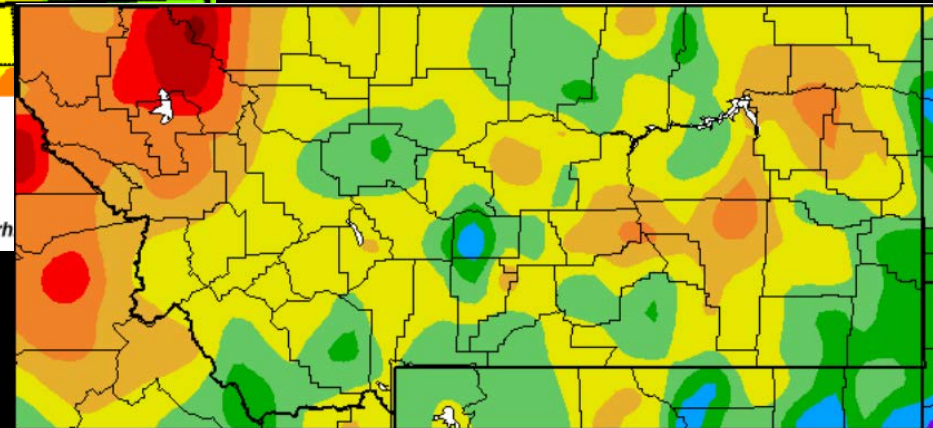


Apr-Sep 2015 Percent of Normal Precipitation  
Period of Normal: 1981-2010

20 40 60 85 115 150 200

NOTE: Data used to generate this image are  
PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<http://www.wrh>



Departure from Average in Inches

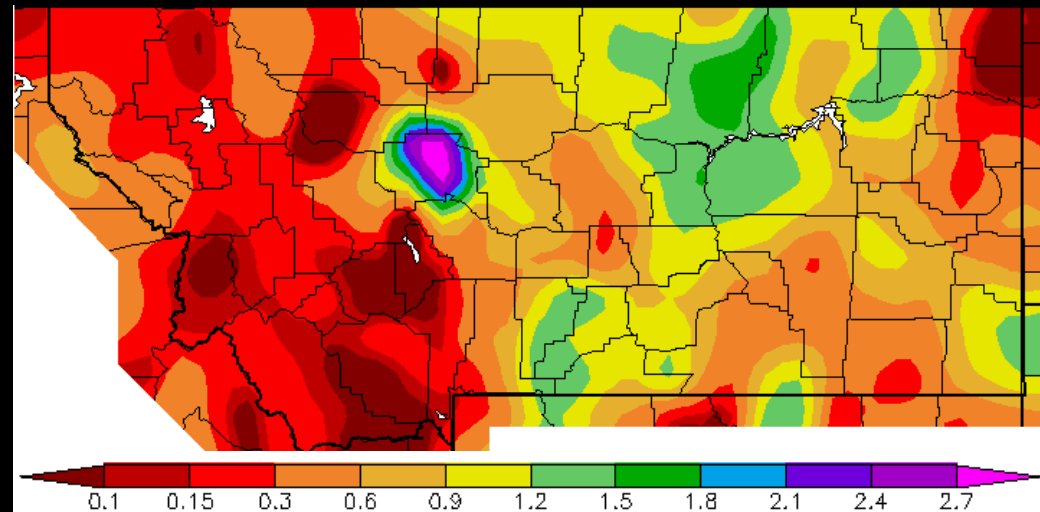
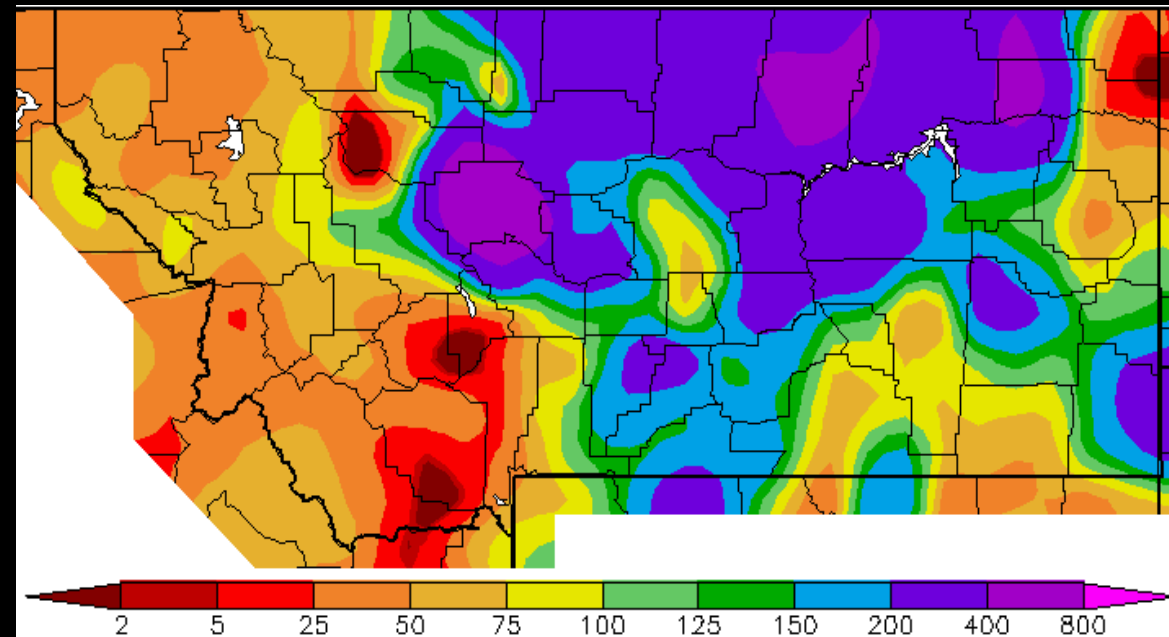
-10 -8 -6 -4 -2 0 2 4 6 8 10



# Percent of Average and Total Precipitation

## October 1-12

- Well below average west, southwest, and northeast
- Well above average north-central, northeast, central, and portions of south-central and southeast
- Sites in/near Great Falls 2-3 inches October
  - 4<sup>th</sup> wettest for Great Falls even with no more precipitation

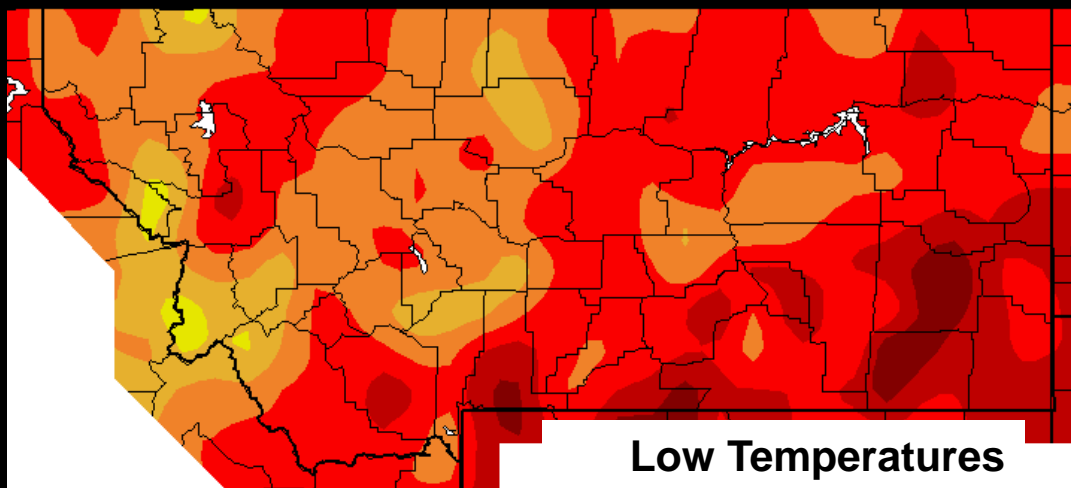
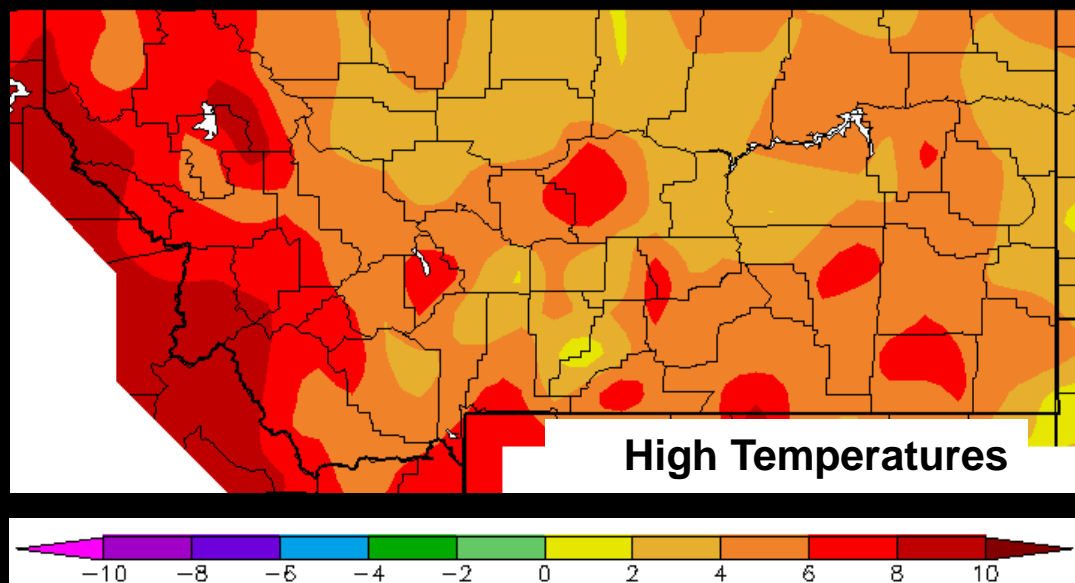




# Departure from Average Temperatures

## October

- High temperatures above average statewide
  - Areas west and south 6-10 °F above average
- Low temperatures above average statewide
  - South-central and southeast 4-6 °F above average

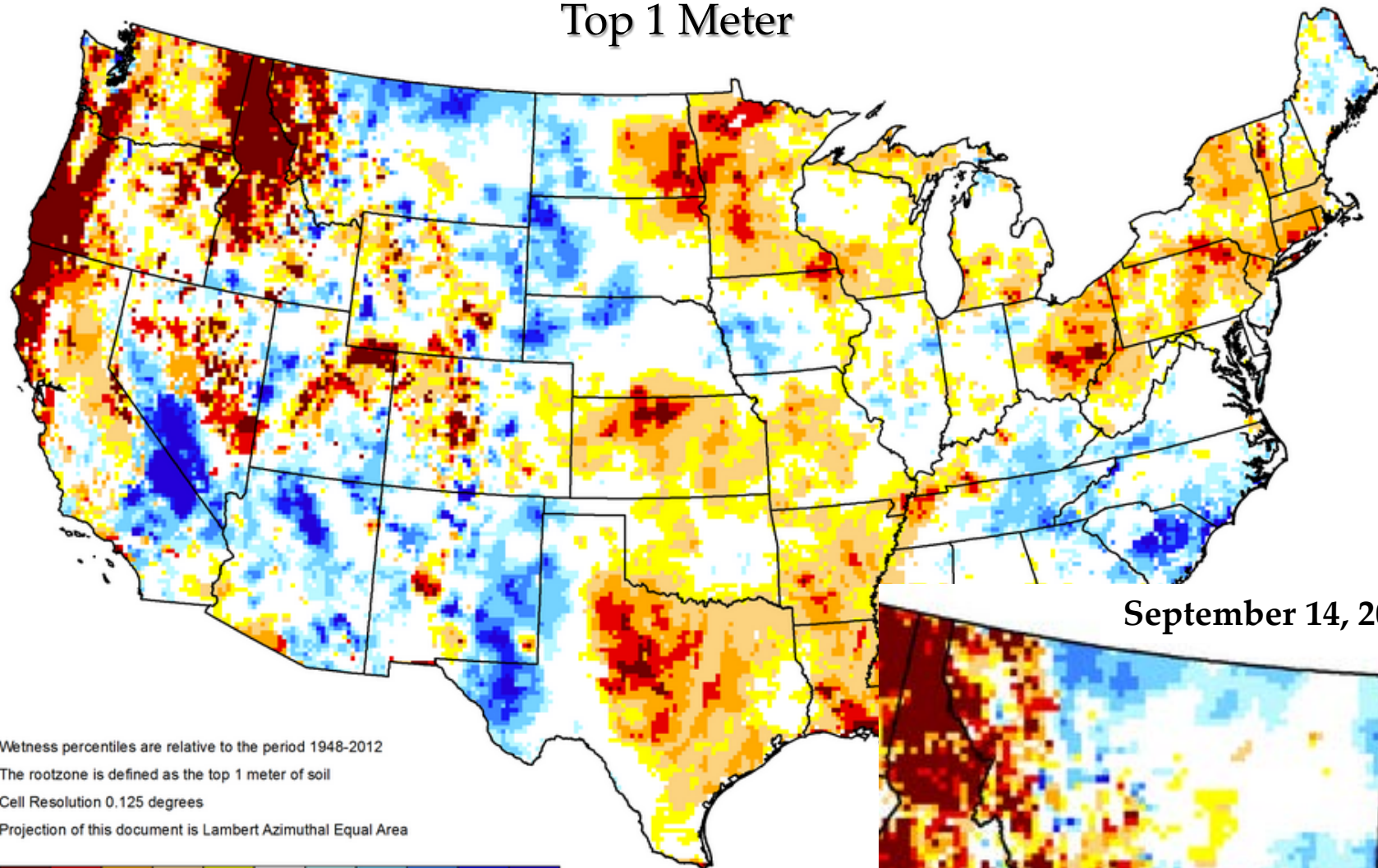




# GRACE-Based Root Zone Soil Moisture Drought Indicator

October 12, 2015

## Top 1 Meter



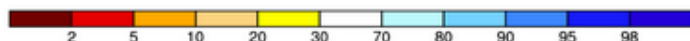
September 14, 2015

Wetness percentiles are relative to the period 1948-2012

The rootzone is defined as the top 1 meter of soil

Cell Resolution 0.125 degrees

Projection of this document is Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area



Wetness Percentile

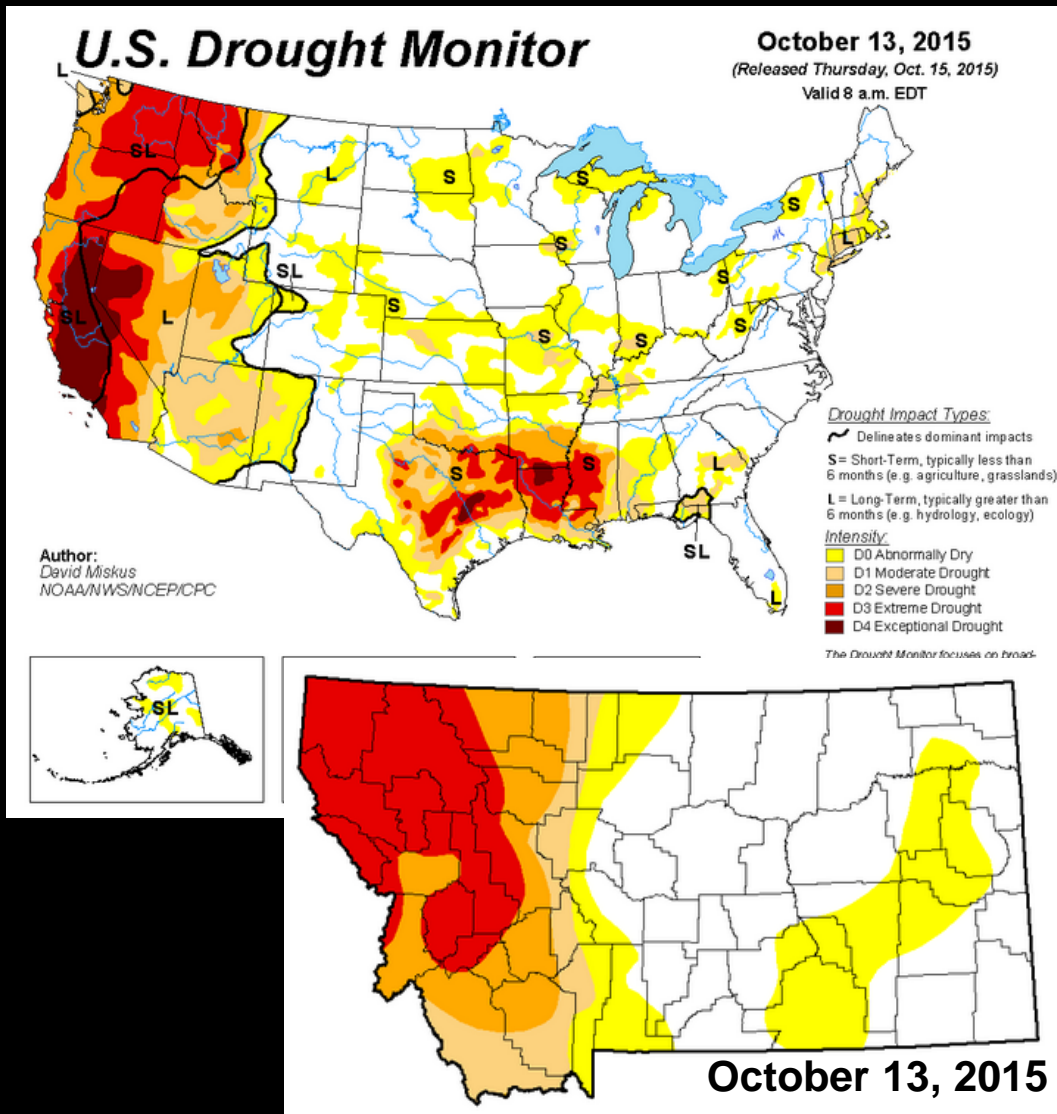
<http://drought.unl.edu/Mc>



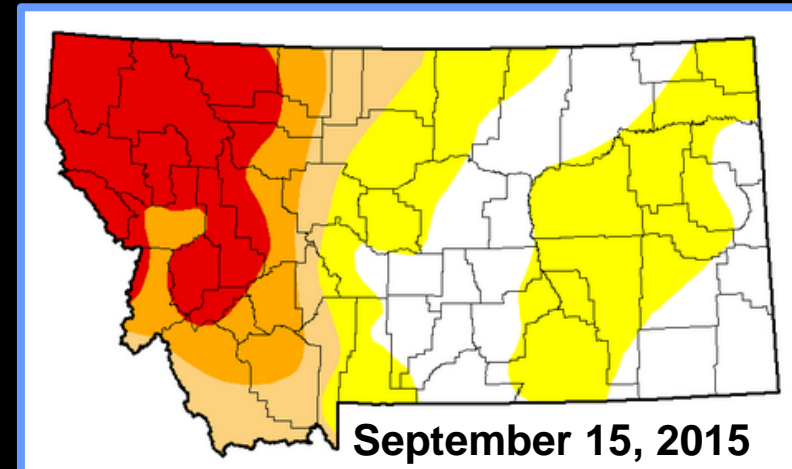
NOAA - National Weather Service – Building a Weather Ready Nation

# National Drought Monitor

## Issued October 15



- Slight improvement along fringes of drought areas





# North American Drought Monitor

August 31, 2015

Released: Thursday, September 10, 2015






<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/nadm.html>

**Analysts:**


Canada - Trevor Hadwen  
Dwayne Chobanik  
Mexico - Reynaldo Pascual  
Adelina Albanil  
Minerva Lopez\*  
U.S.A. - Anthony Artusa

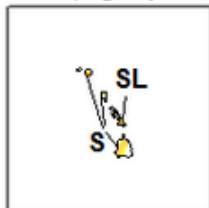
(\* Responsible for collecting analysts' input & assembling the NA-D-M map)

Intensity:

-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Drought - Moderate
-  D2 Drought - Severe
-  D3 Drought - Extreme
-  D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

-  Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months  
(e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months  
(e.g. hydrology, ecology)



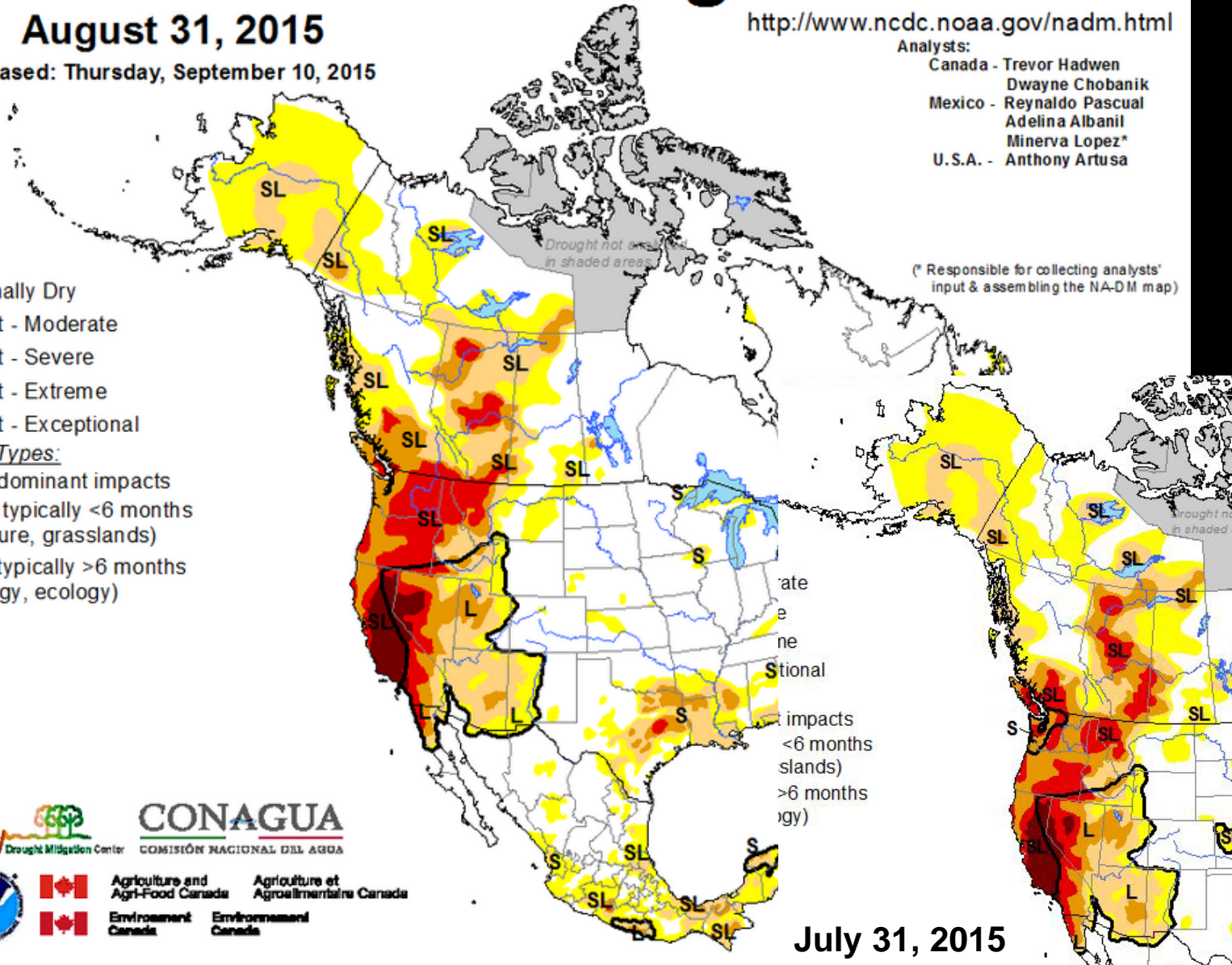
Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada

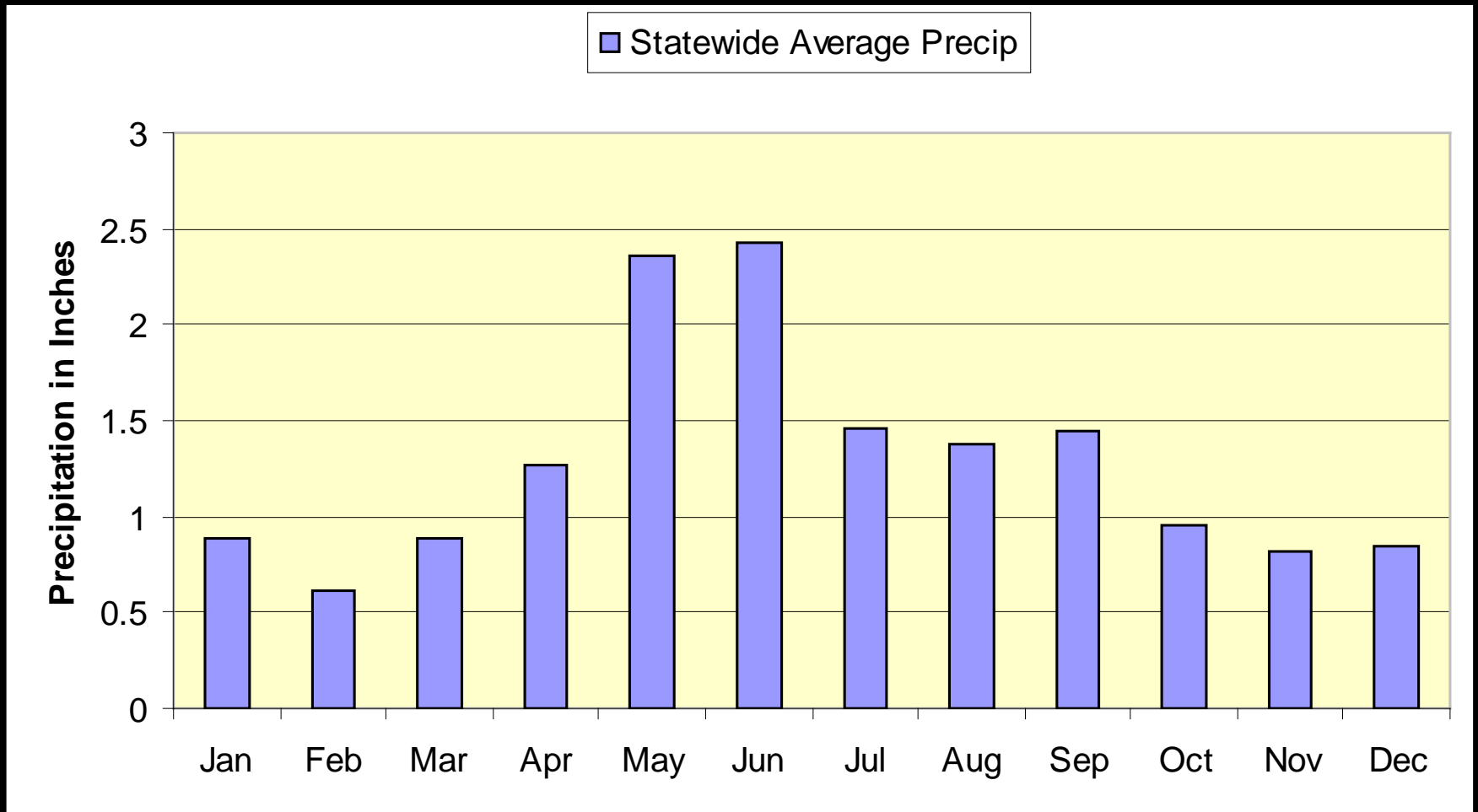
July 31, 2015



NOAA - National Weather Service – Building a Weather Ready Nation

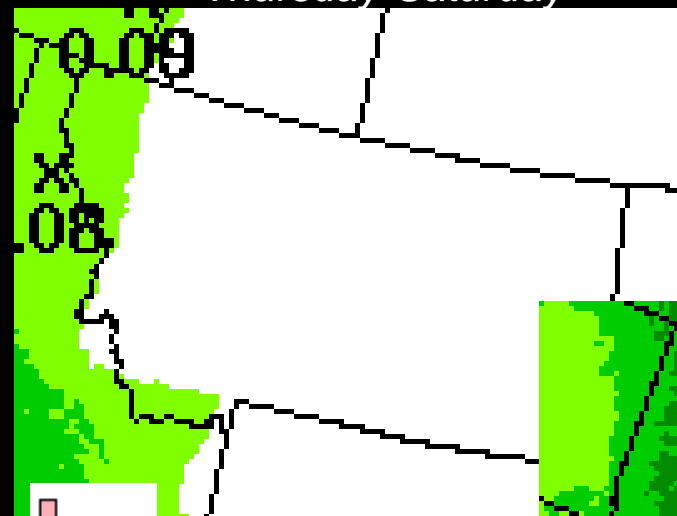
# Statewide Average Precipitation

October beginning of drier fall/winter months

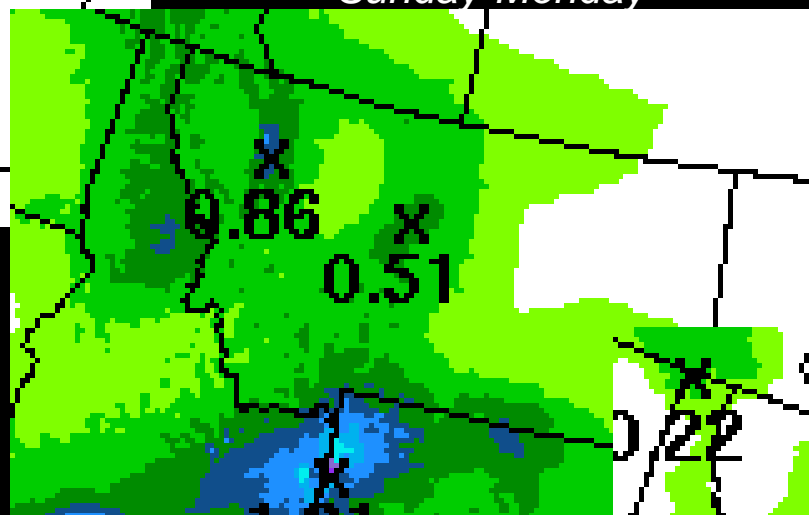


# Precipitation Forecast

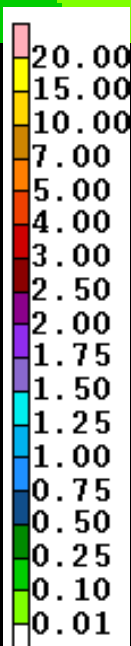
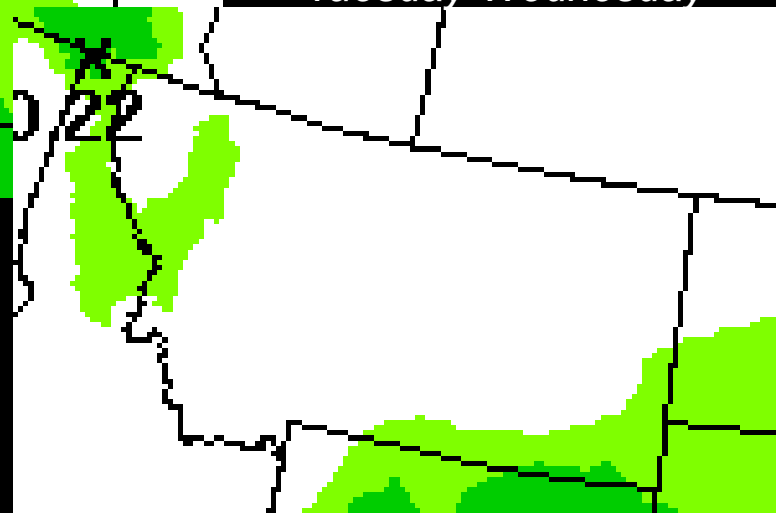
*Thursday-Saturday*



*Sunday-Monday*



*Tuesday-Wednesday*

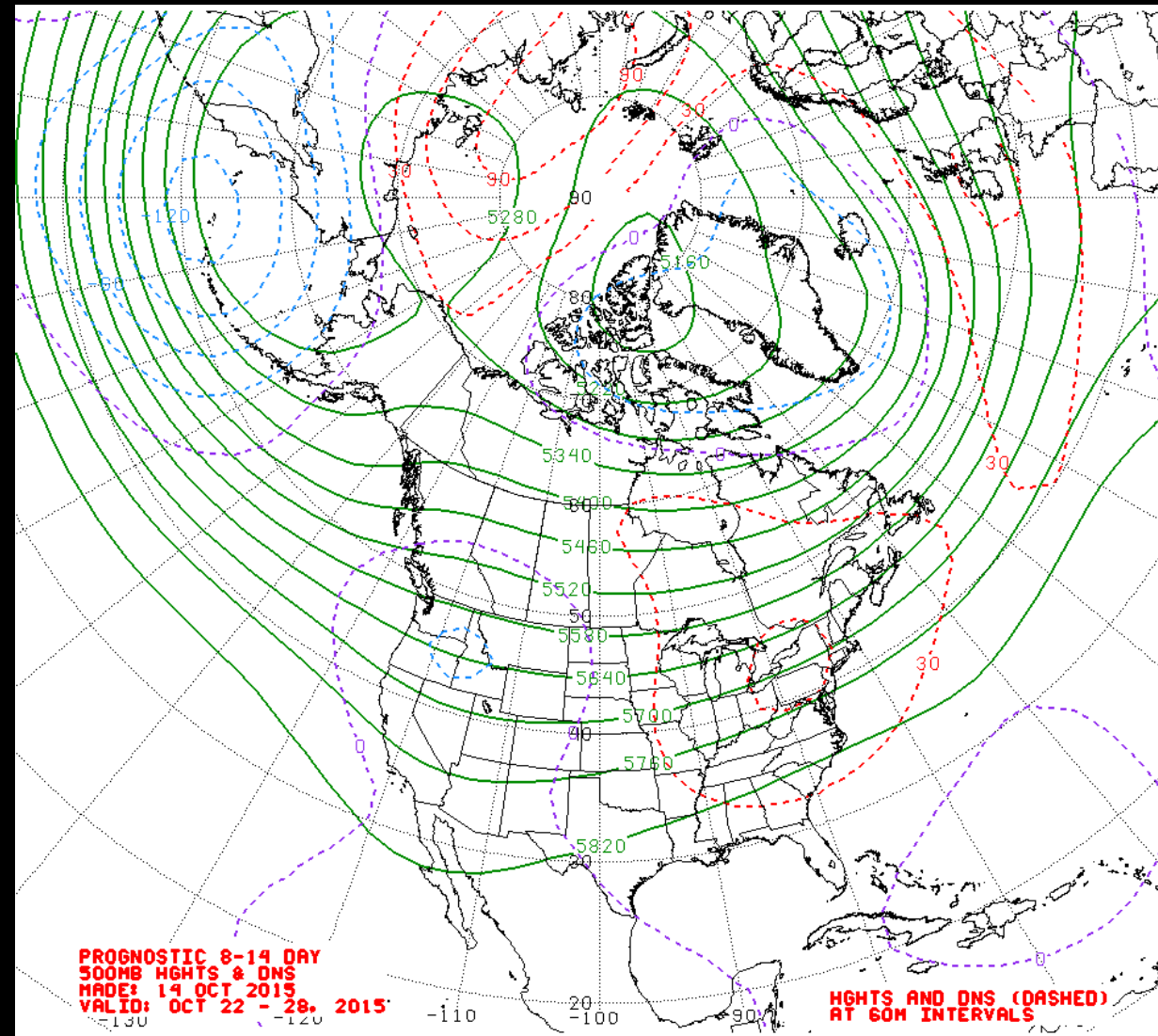




# 8 to 14 Day Outlook

## 500mb Heights and Anomalies

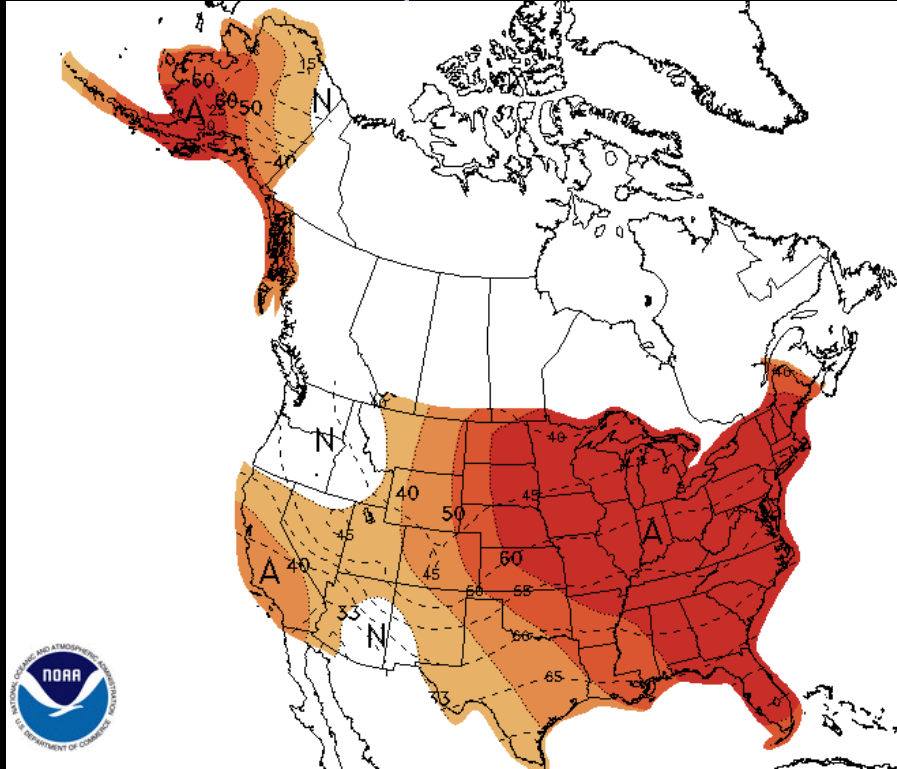
- October 22 - 28
- Westerly flow into Pacific Northwest and Montana



# 8 to 14 Day Outlook

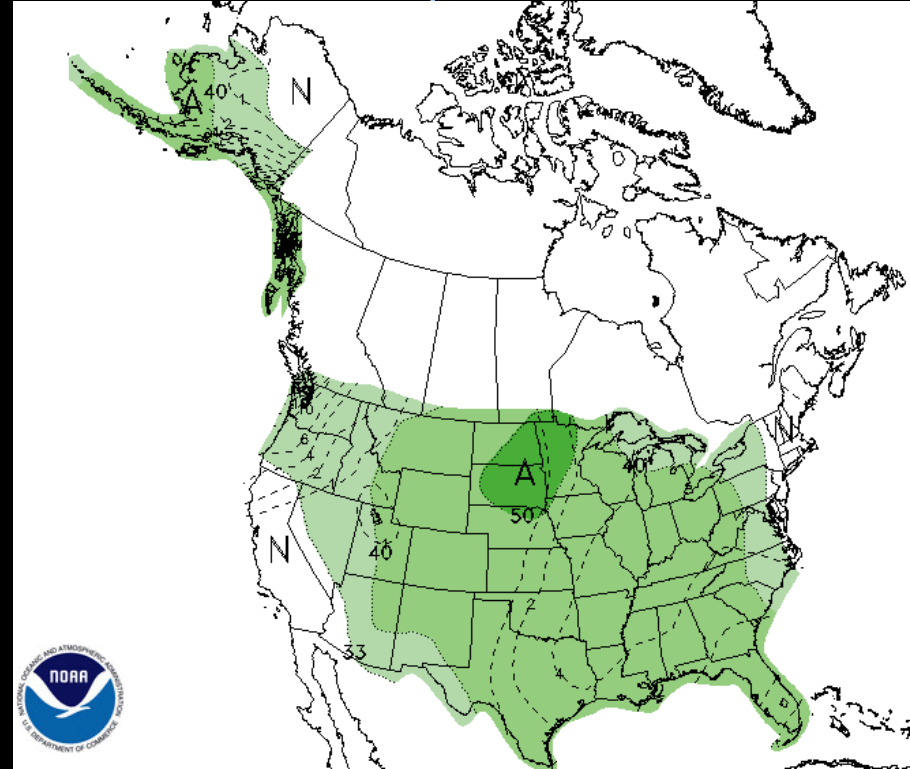
October 22 - 28

## Temperature



- 33% to 50% chance temperatures will average above normal across Montana east of the Divide
- Equal chances for above, below or near average temperatures west of the Divide

## Precipitation

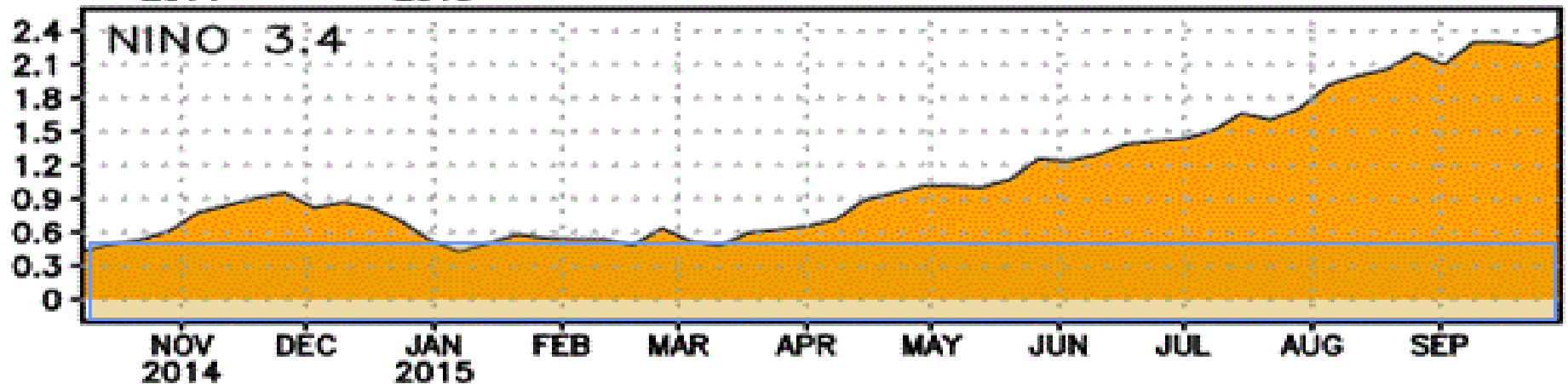


- 33% to 50% chance precipitation will average above normal across Montana

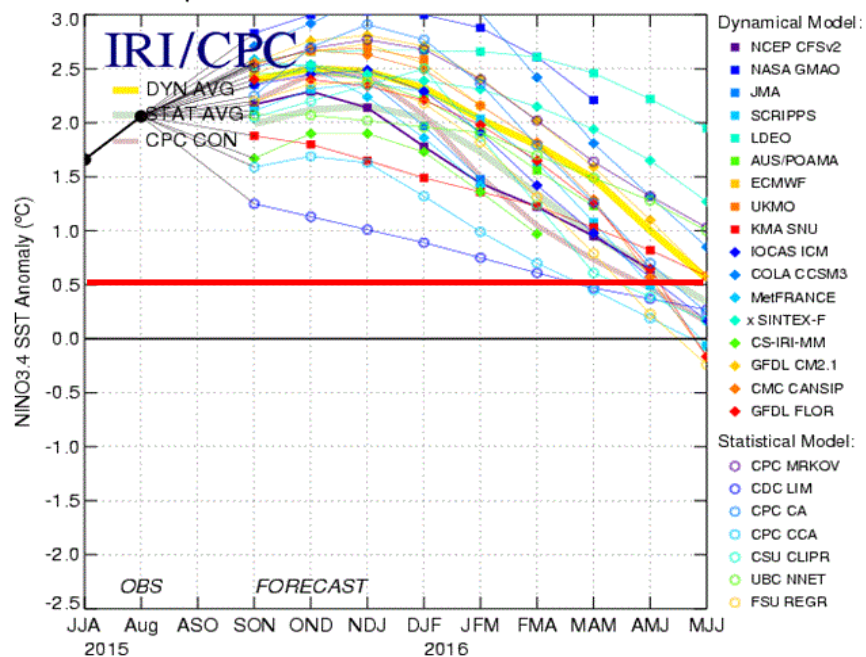


# El Niño / La Niña

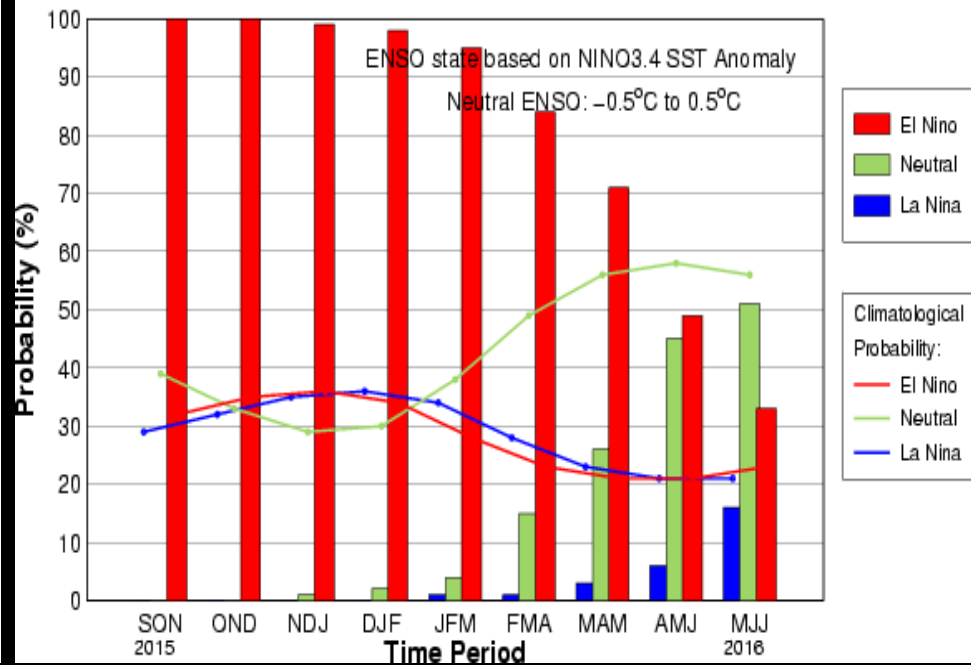
*El Niño Advisory: ~95% chance continues through winter, gradually weakening thru spring*



Mid-Sep 2015 Plume of Model ENSO Predictions



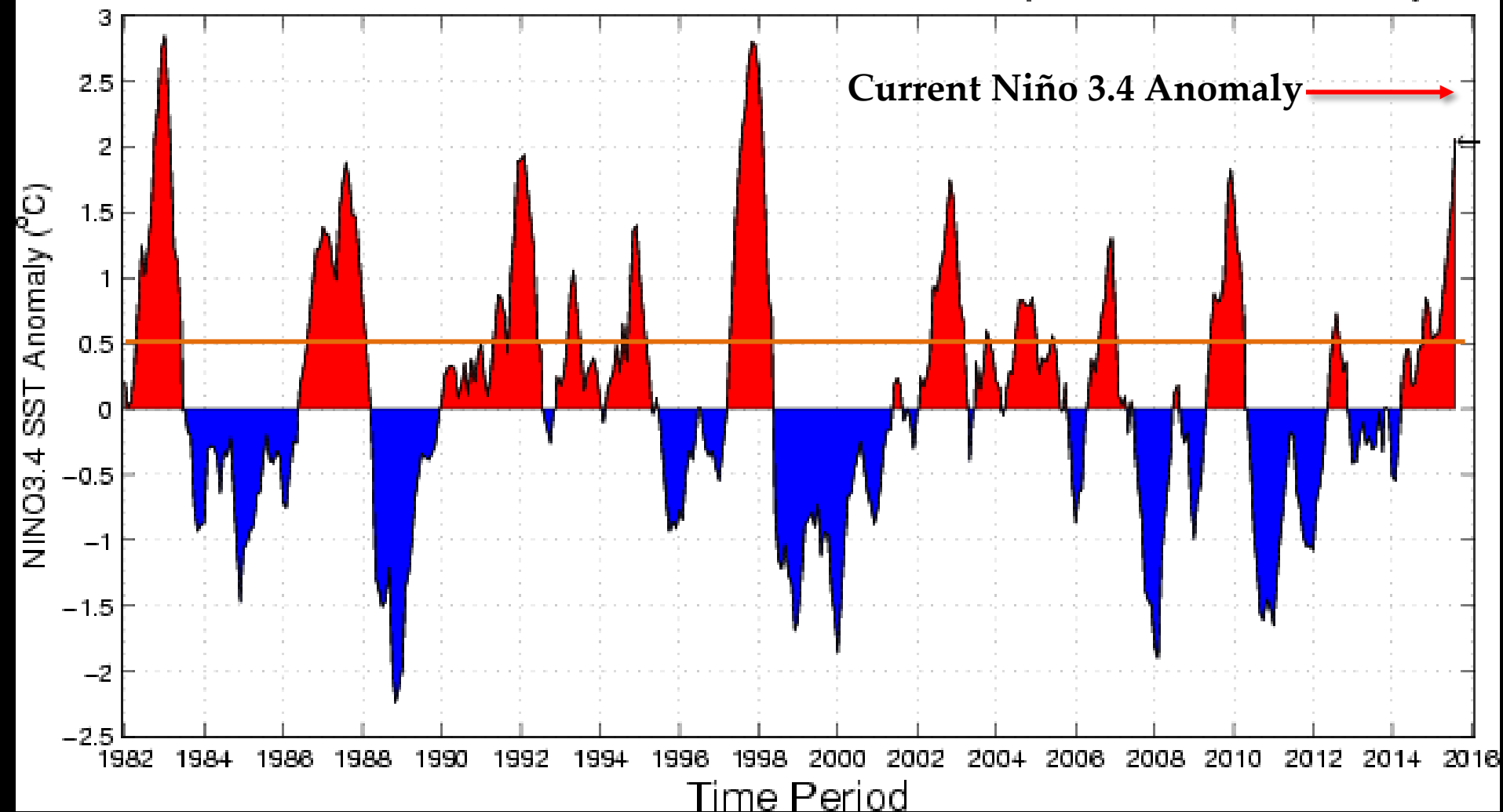
Early-Oct CPC/IRI Consensus Probabilistic ENSO Forecast





# Historical Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly

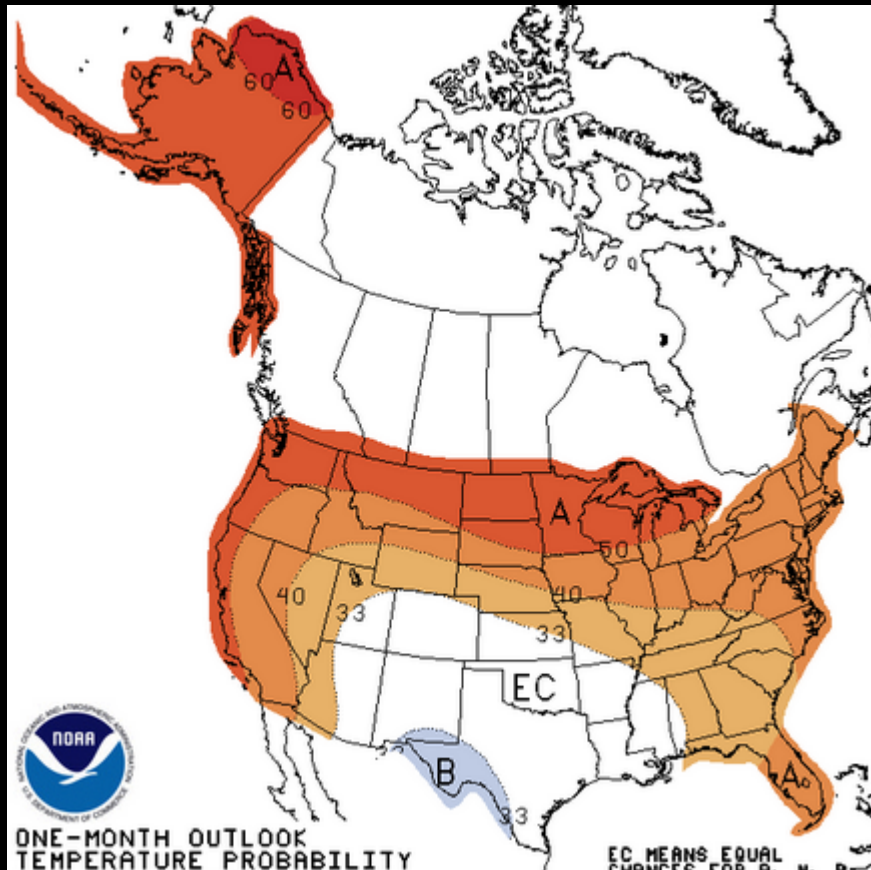
## Historical NINO3.4 Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly



# November Outlook

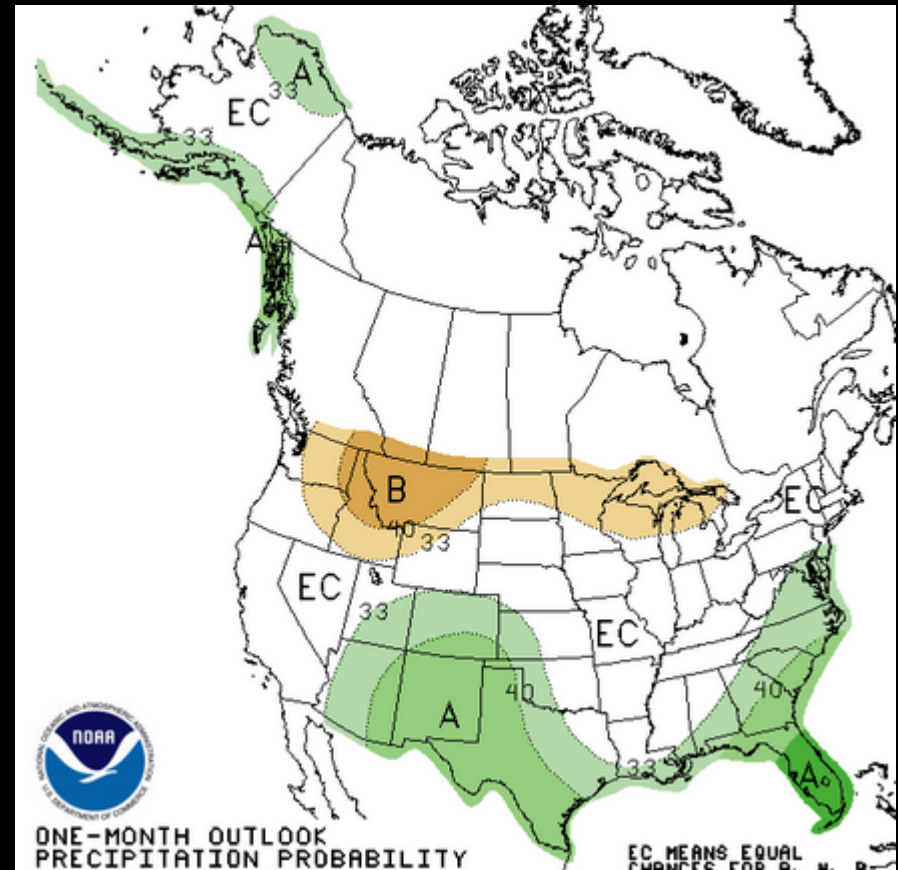
Updated October 15

## *Temperature*



- 40% to 60% chance temperatures will average above normal across Montana

## *Precipitation*

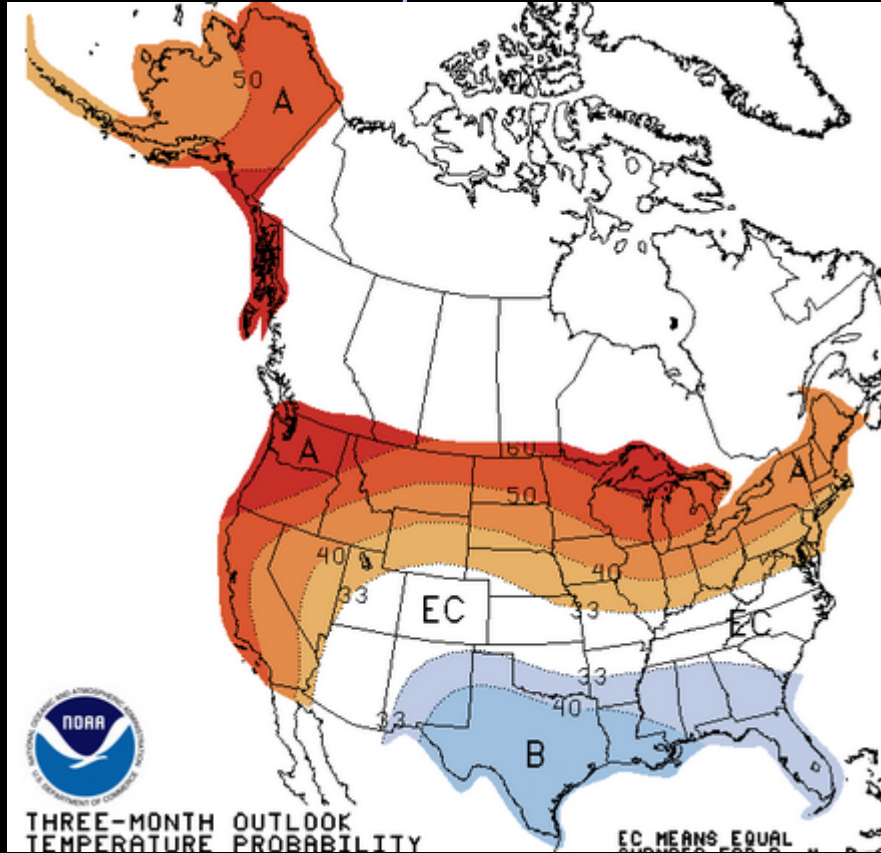


- 33% to 50% chance precipitation will average below normal across Montana

# December – February Outlook

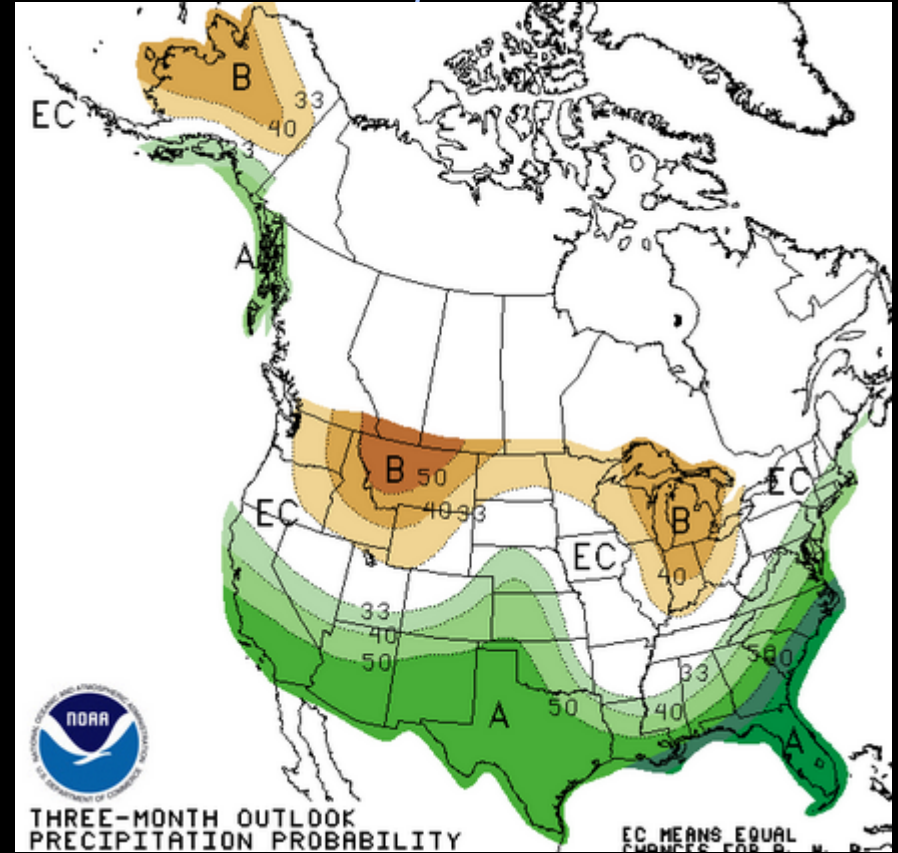
Updated October 15

## *Temperature*



- 40% to 70% chance temperatures will average above normal across Montana

## *Precipitation*



- 33% to 60% chance precipitation will average below normal across Montana

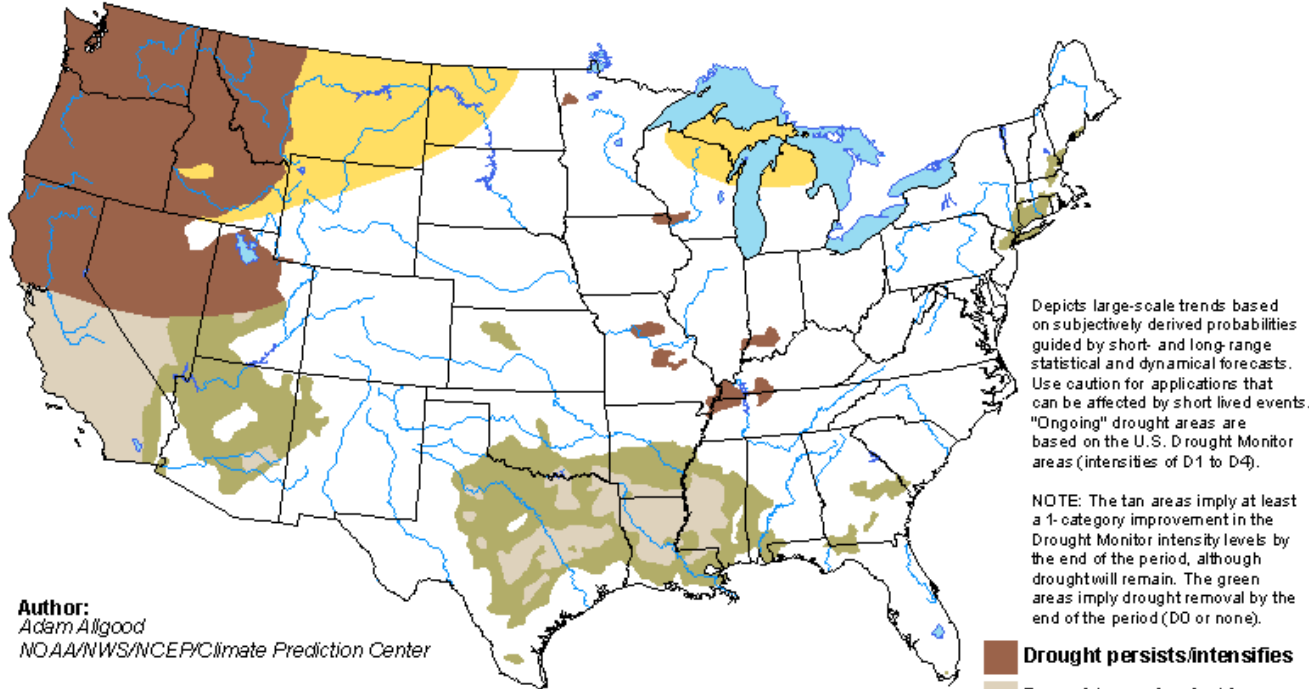


# Drought Outlook through January

Issued October 15

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 15 - January 31, 2016  
Released October 15, 2015



Author:  
Adam Allgood  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

- Drought persists/intensifies
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

- Those areas currently in drought status (D1 – D3) expected to persist or intensify
- Drought development expected in central and eastern Montana



# In Summary...

- September brought well above average precipitation to Rocky Mountain Front and adjacent plains as well as areas along North Dakota border. West of the Divide and a large portion of central and eastern Montana received well below average precipitation.
- September temperatures mostly near average over northwest half, above average southeast half
- Water year ended with areas west and southwest below normal, small area central above normal
- Crop year... virtually done... west of Divide well below normal, small area central above normal
- El Niño continues to strengthen. Expected to persist through winter, gradually weakening through spring
  - Now signs it may weaken slightly earlier than previously forecast
- Drought Outlook continues to show those areas of drought in Montana expected to persist or intensify through January with drought development expected over central into eastern Montana



weather.gov



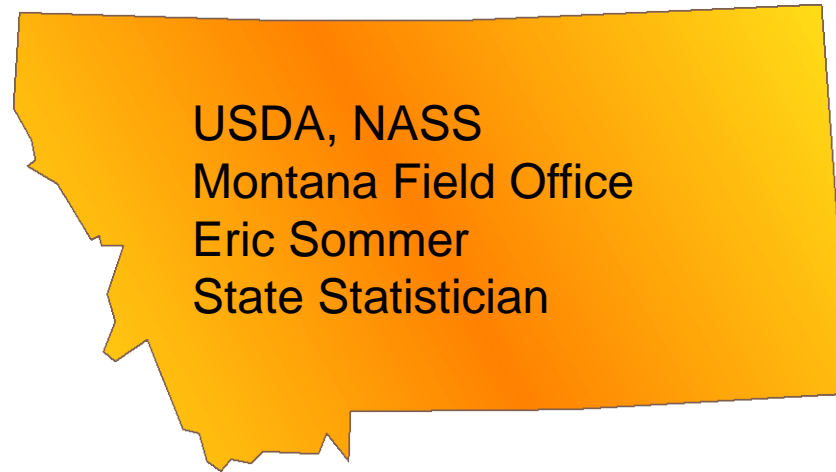
[weather.gov/billings](https://weather.gov/billings)  
[weather.gov/glasgow](https://weather.gov/glasgow)  
[weather.gov/missoula](https://weather.gov/missoula)  
[weather.gov/greatfalls](https://weather.gov/greatfalls)



*NOAA - National Weather Service – Building a Weather Ready Nation*



# Montana Drought & Water Supply Advisory Committee

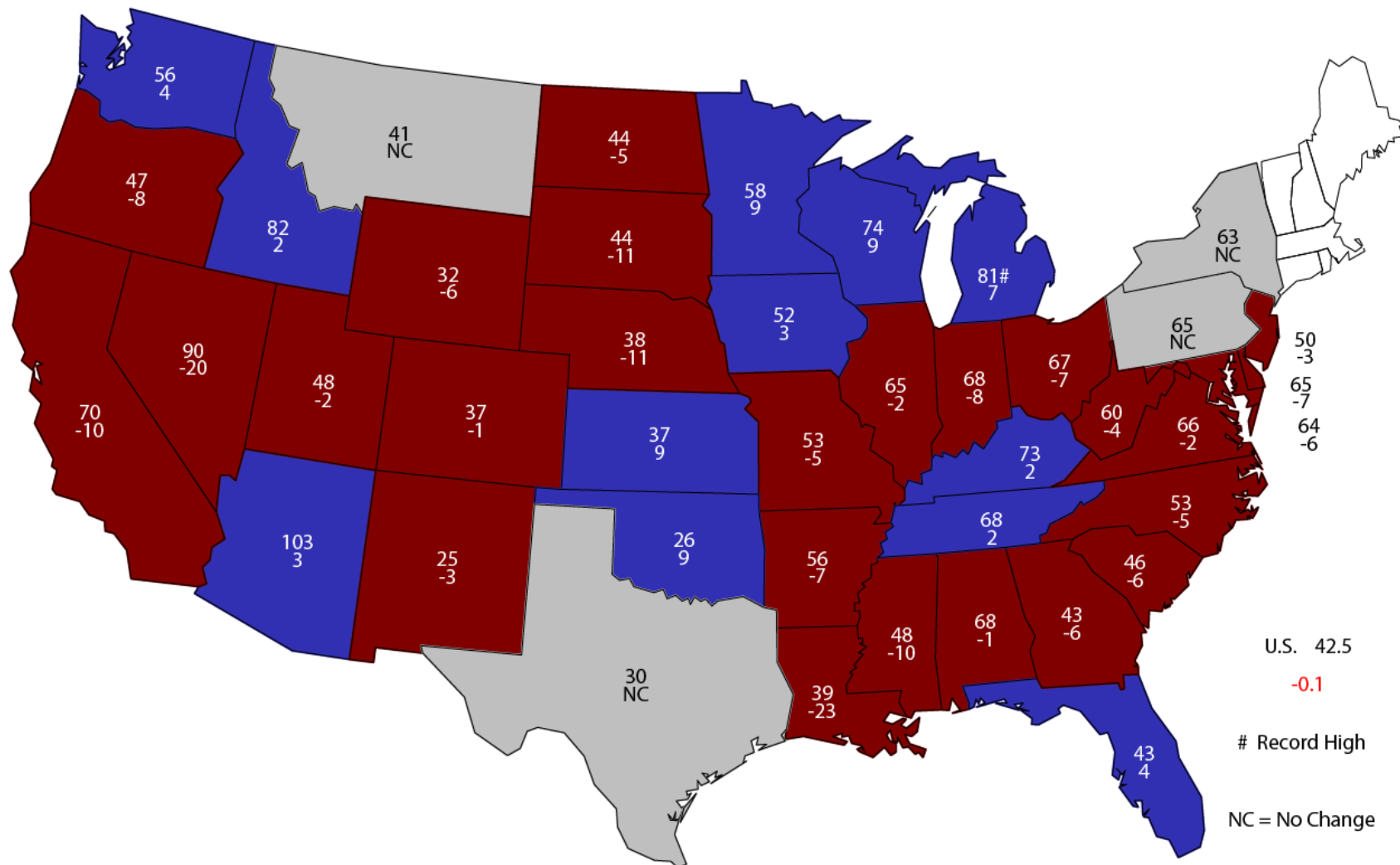


# MT Small Grains Annual Summary

Crop	Unit	September 2014	% Change from Previous Season
<b>Winter Wheat</b>			
Harvested	Mil Ac	2.22	-1.0
Yield	Bu/Ac	41.0	nc
Production	Mil Bu	91.02	-1.0
<b>Other Spring</b>			
Harvested	Mil Ac	2.44	-18.1
Yield	Bu/Ac	31.0	-11.4
Production	Mil Bu	75.64	-27.5
<b>Durum</b>			
Harvested	Tho Ac	605	+40.7
Yield	Bu/Ac	31	nc
Production	Mil Bu	18.76	+40.7
<b>All Wheat</b>			
Production	Mil Bu	185.42	-11

# 2015 Winter Wheat Yield

## Bushels and Change From Previous Year



U.S. 42.5

-0.1

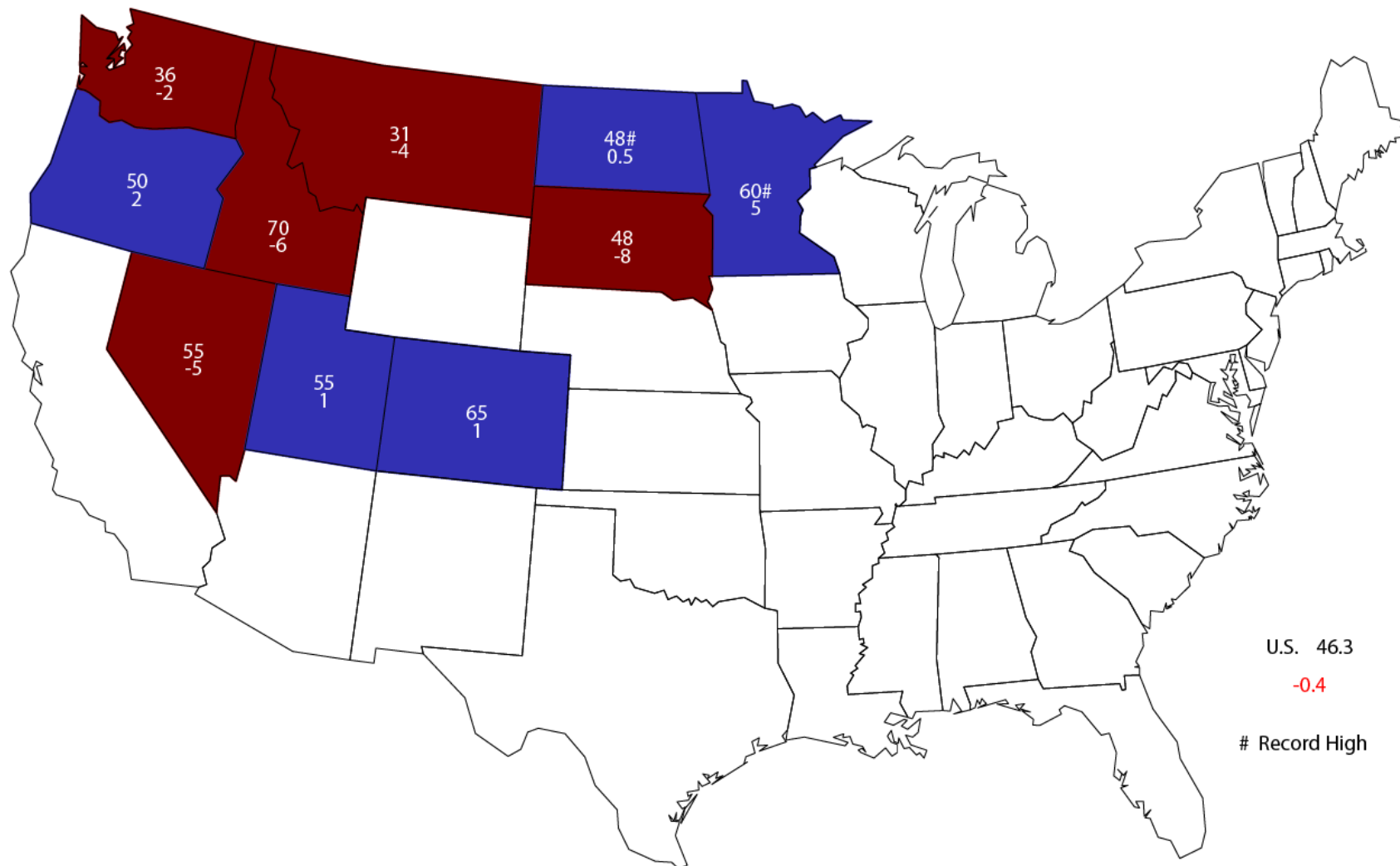
# Record High

NC = No Change



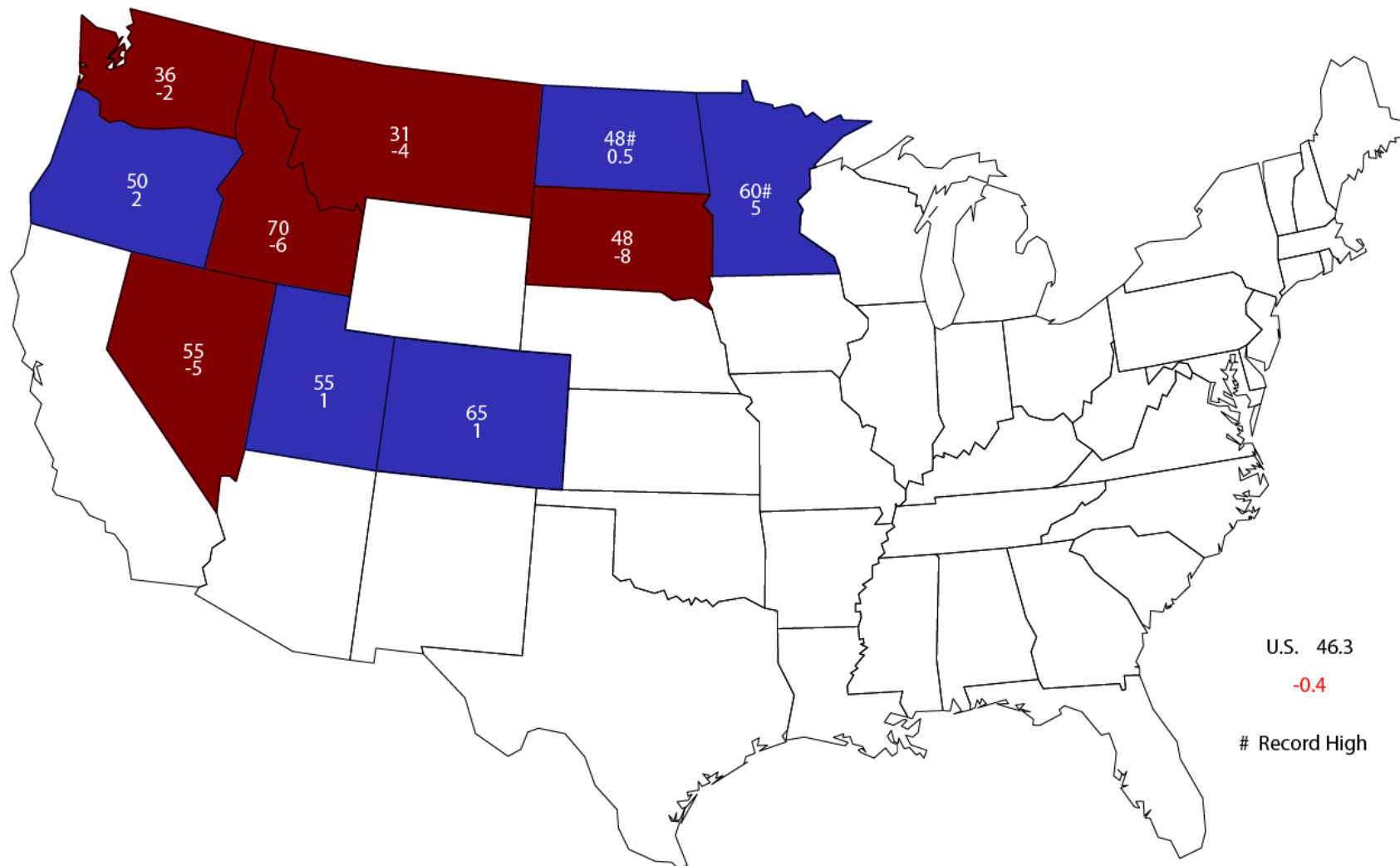
# 2015 Other Spring Wheat Yield

## Bushels and Change From Previous Year



# 2015 Other Spring Wheat Yield

## Bushels and Change From Previous Year



# **Crop Weather Report**

## **Week Ending October 11, 2015**

- Cool and Wet in Areas before turning Hot and dry
- Topsoil moisture conditions at 55 percent adequate and surplus
  - Below the five-year average of 65 percent
- Subsoil moisture conditions at 51 percent adequate and surplus
  - Below the five-year average of 60 percent



# Topsoil Moisture

## Week Ending October 11, 2015

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg.
Very short	15	16	2	11
Short	30	30	13	24
Adequate	48	47	78	60
Surplus	7	7	7	5

# Subsoil Moisture

## Week Ending October 11, 2015

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg.
Very short	15	15	2	14
Short	34	34	13	26
Adequate	42	42	77	57
Surplus	9	9	8	3

# Crop Progress Percent

## Week Ending October 11, 2015

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg.
<b>Potatoes</b> harvested	72	60	52	59
<b>Sugar Beets</b> harvested	23	22	15	30



# Crop Progress Percent

## Week Ending September 15, 2014

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg.
<b>Corn for Grain</b> harvested	33	25	30	15
<b>Corn for Silage</b> harvested	93	89	94	86

# Crop Progress Percent

## Week Ending October 11, 2015

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg.
<b>Winter Wheat</b> planted	92	86	90	80
<b>Winter Wheat</b> emerged	63	36	48	39

# Corn Crop Condition

## Week Ending October 11, 2015

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	3	6	34	44	13
Last week	3	6	33	45	13
Last year	--	2	30	53	15
5-yr Avg.	1	5	29	47	18



# Sugar Beets Crop Condition

## Week Ending October 11, 2015

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	--	8	28	47	17
Last week	--	8	28	48	16
Last year	1	1	15	41	42
5-yr Avg.	1	5	27	48	19

# Movement from Summer Ranges

## Week Ending October 11, 2015

	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg.
<b>Cattle &amp; Calves</b> Moved	58	49	52	52
<b>Sheep &amp; Lambs</b> Moved	73	62	71	61

# Range & Pasture Feed Condition

## Week Ending October 11, 2015

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	13	27	41	18	1
Last week	12	26	42	18	2
Last year	3	12	32	41	12
5-yr Avg.	13	16	32	32	7



# **Summary**

## **Week Ending October 11, 2015**

- Harvest of most crops nearing completion
- Winter wheat seeding for 2016 crop
  - Ahead of the five-year average

# **USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office**

Eric Sommer, State Statistician

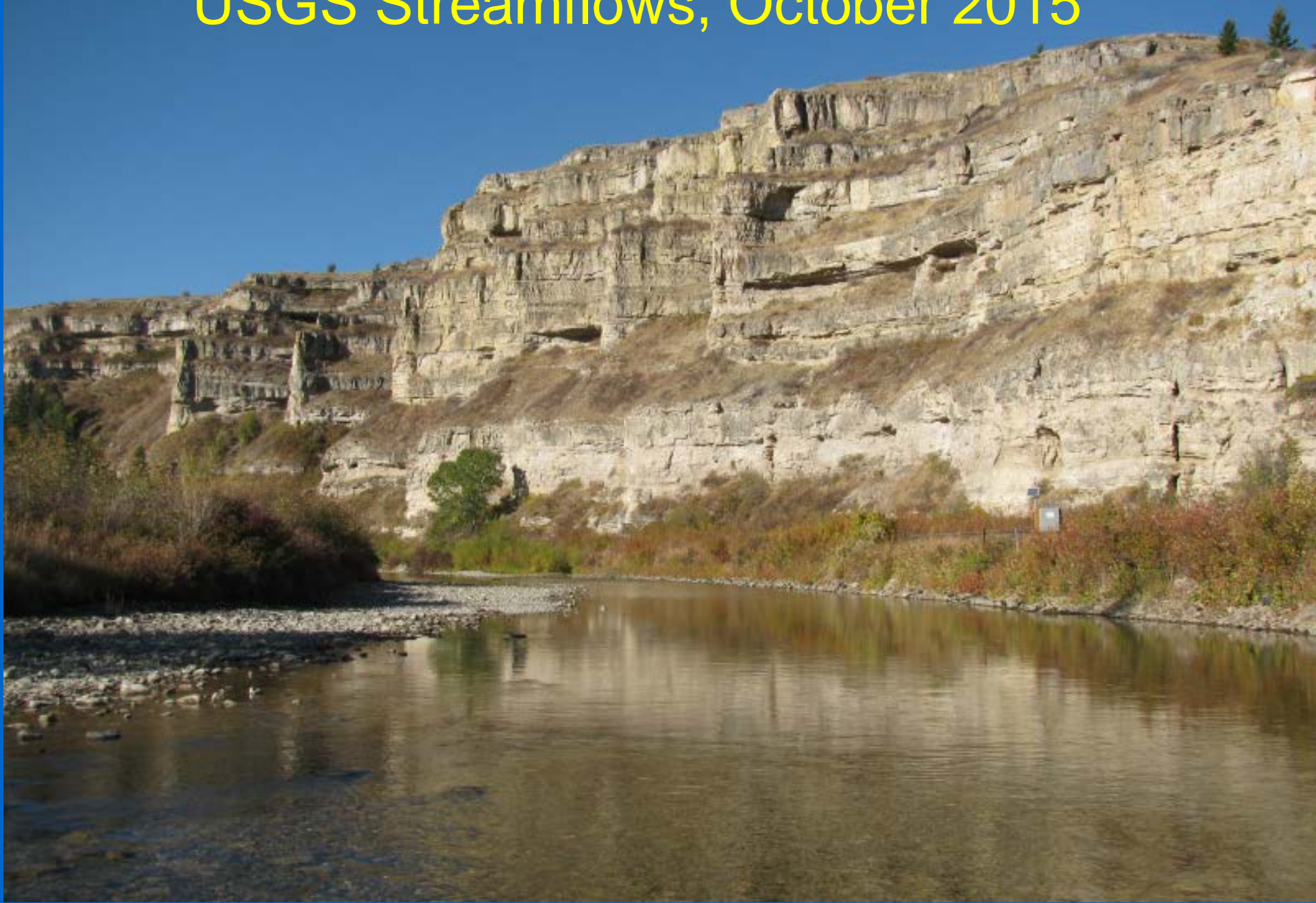
1-800-835-2612 or 406-441-1240

Email: [nass-mt@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-mt@nass.usda.gov)

[www.nass.usda.gov/mt/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/)

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Montana  
Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana_Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/index.asp)

# USGS Streamflows, October 2015





# New Minimum Flow for October 14

06078500 – North Fork Sun River near Augusta

06091700 – Two Medicine River below South Fork, near Browning

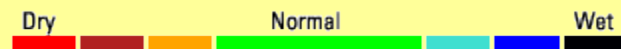
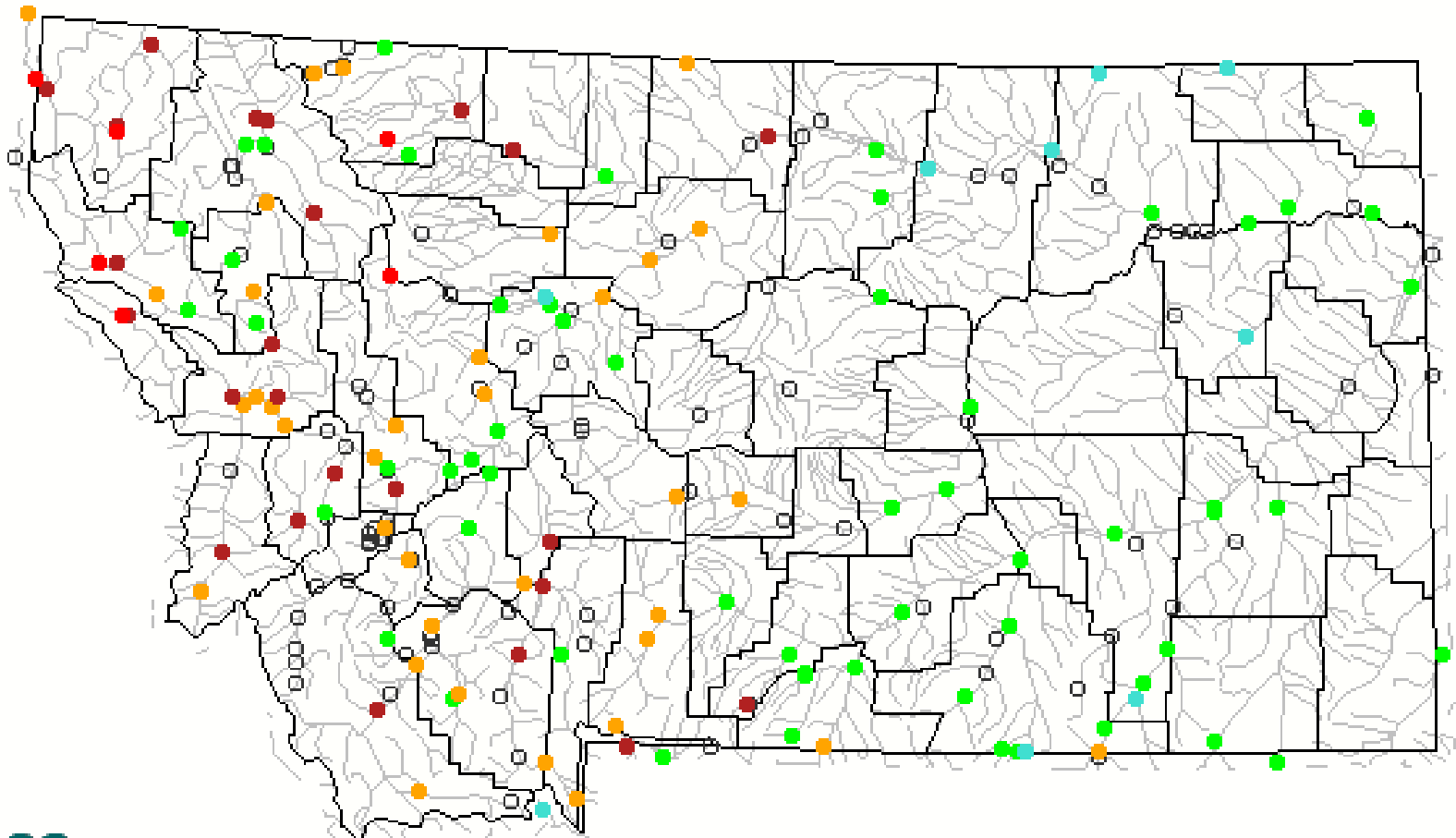
12302055 – Fisher River near Libby

12354000 – St. Regis River near St. Regis

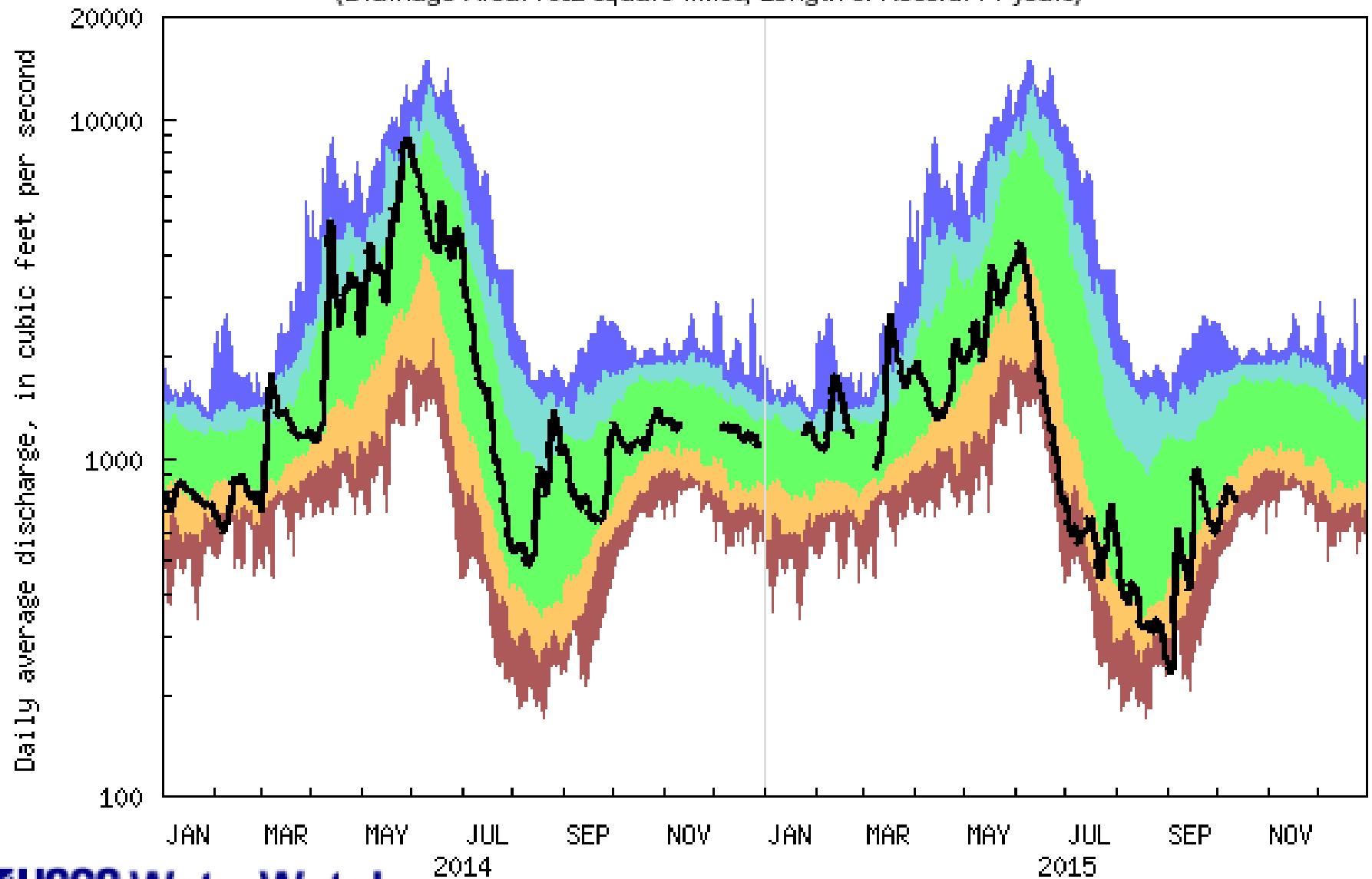
12390700 – Prospect Creek at Thompson Falls

# DAILY STREAMFLOW CONDITIONS

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 09:30ET

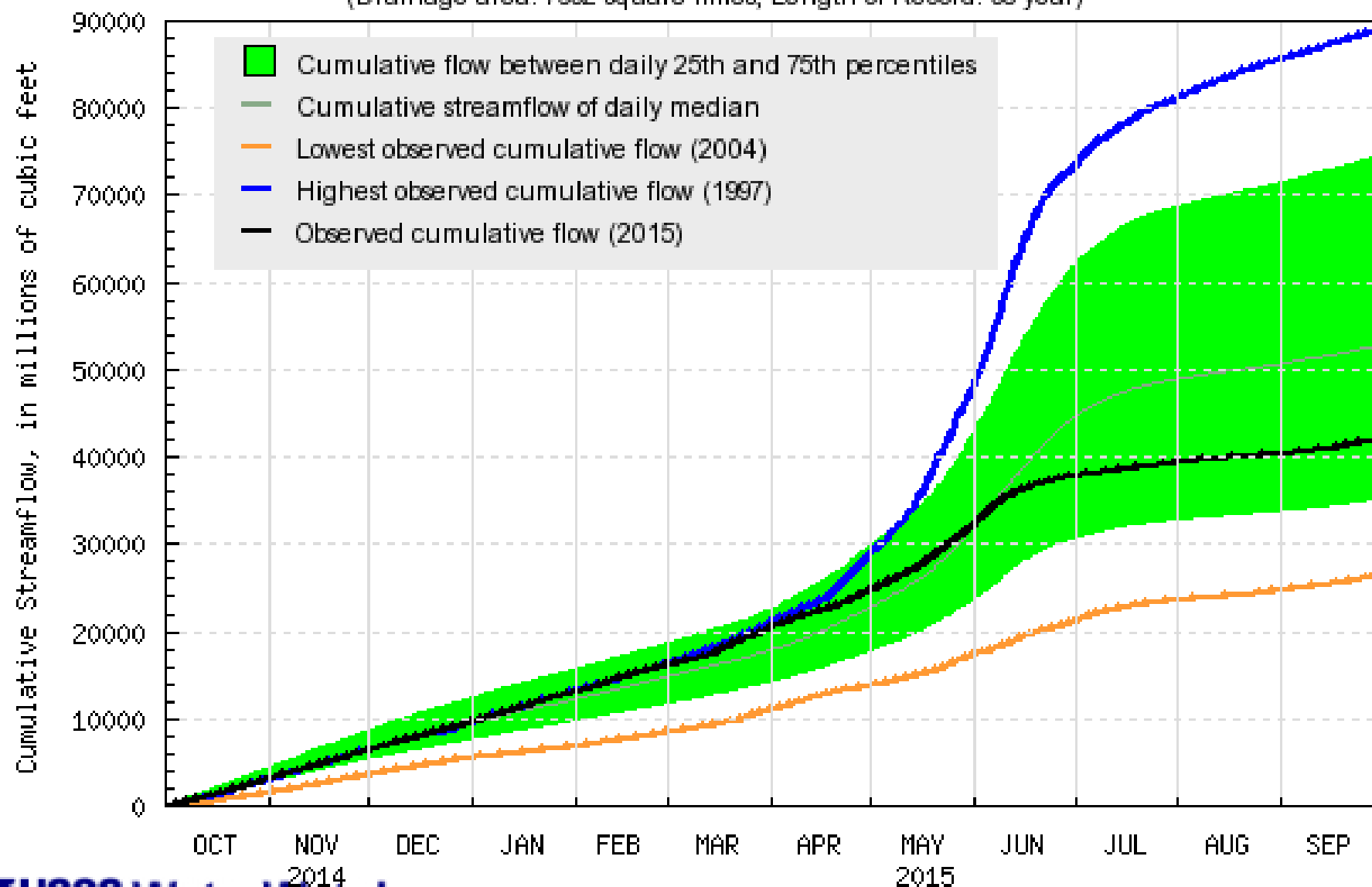


USGS 06026500 Jefferson River near Twin Bridges MT  
(Drainage Area: 7632 square miles, Length of Record: 74 years)



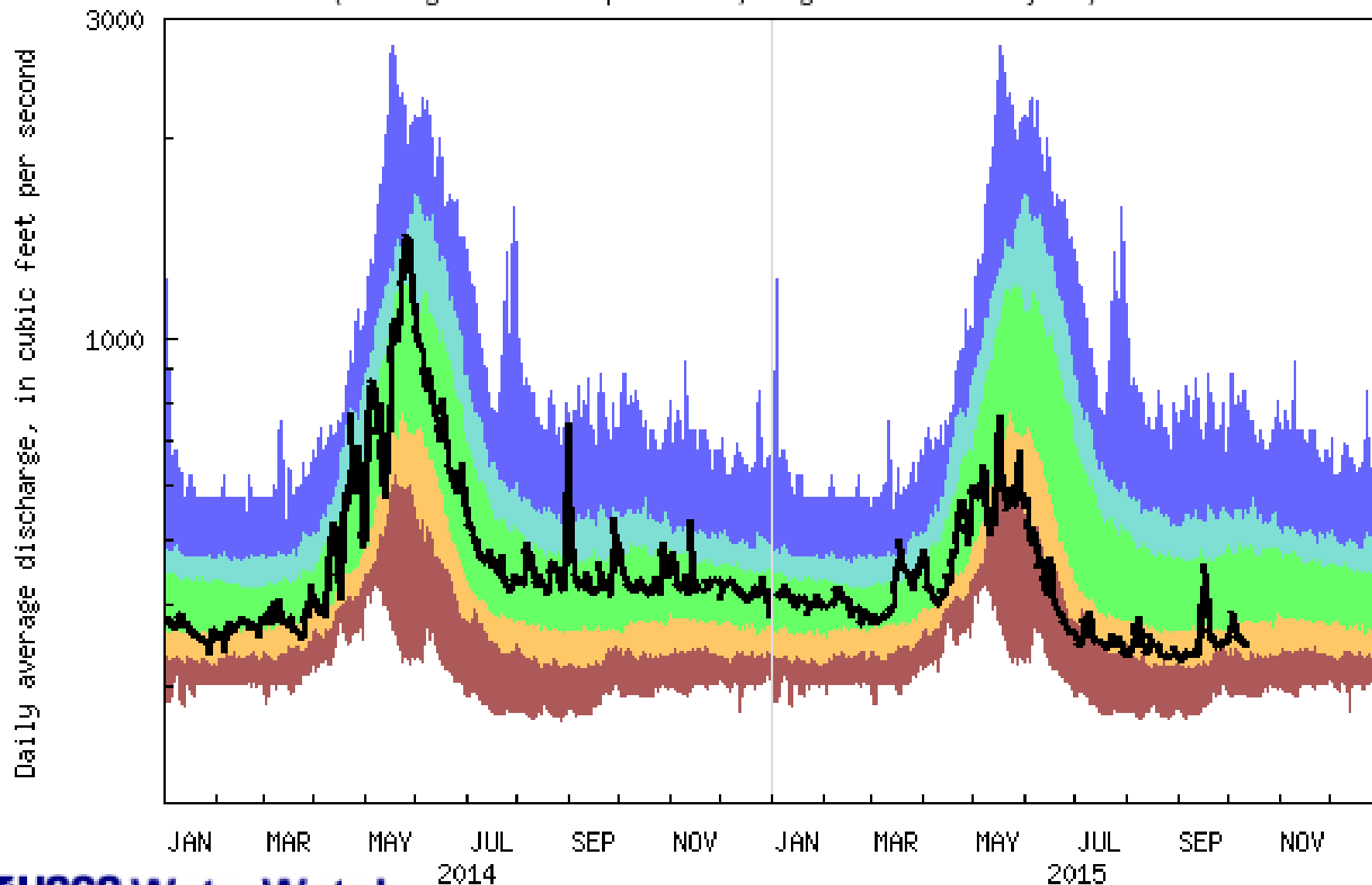
Explanation - Percentile classes					Flow
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 06026500 Jefferson River near Twin Bridges MT  
(Drainage area: 7632 square miles, Length of Record: 38 year)



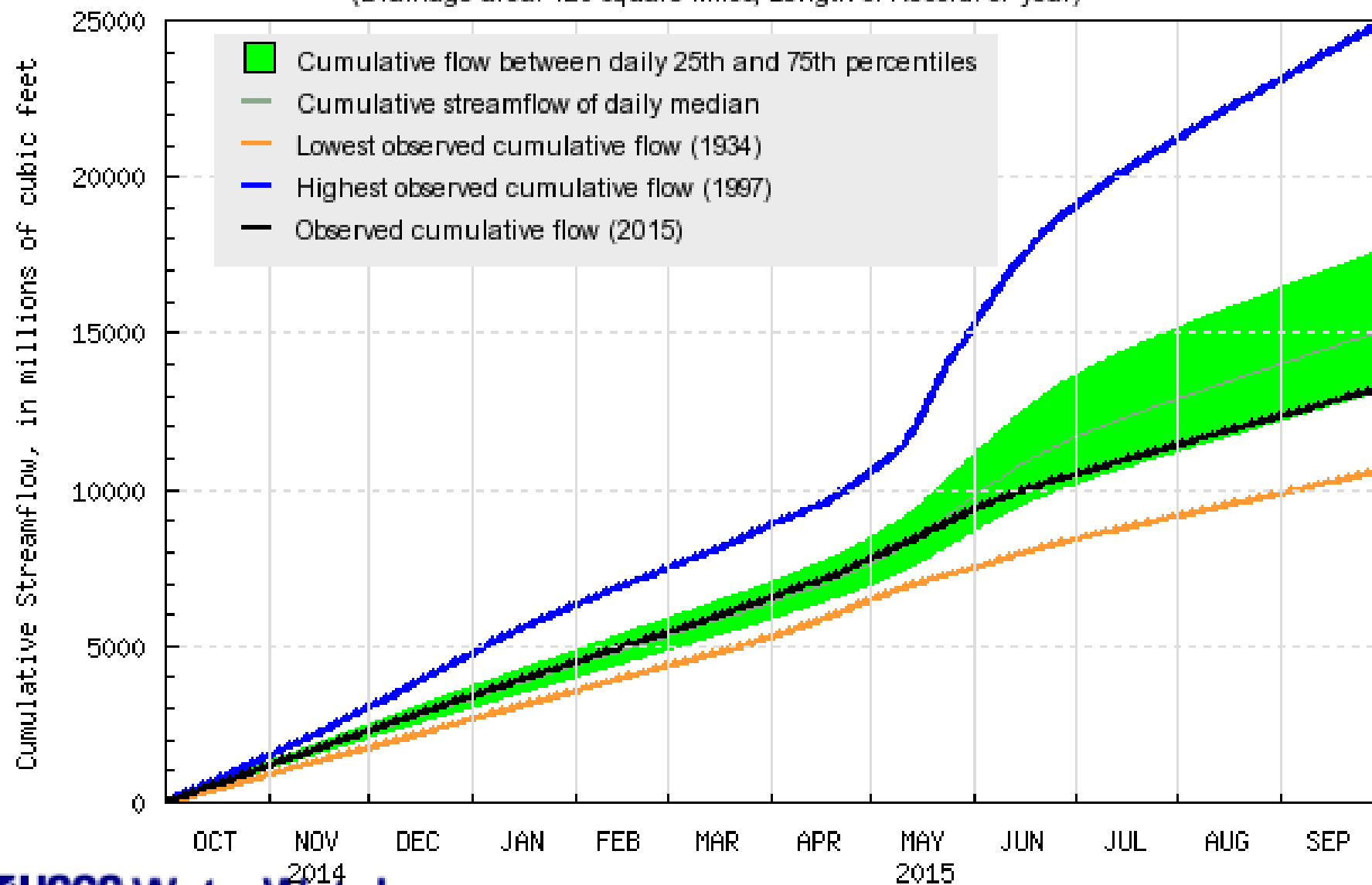


USGS 06037500 Madison River near West Yellowstone MT  
(Drainage Area: 420 square miles, Length of Record: 101 years)

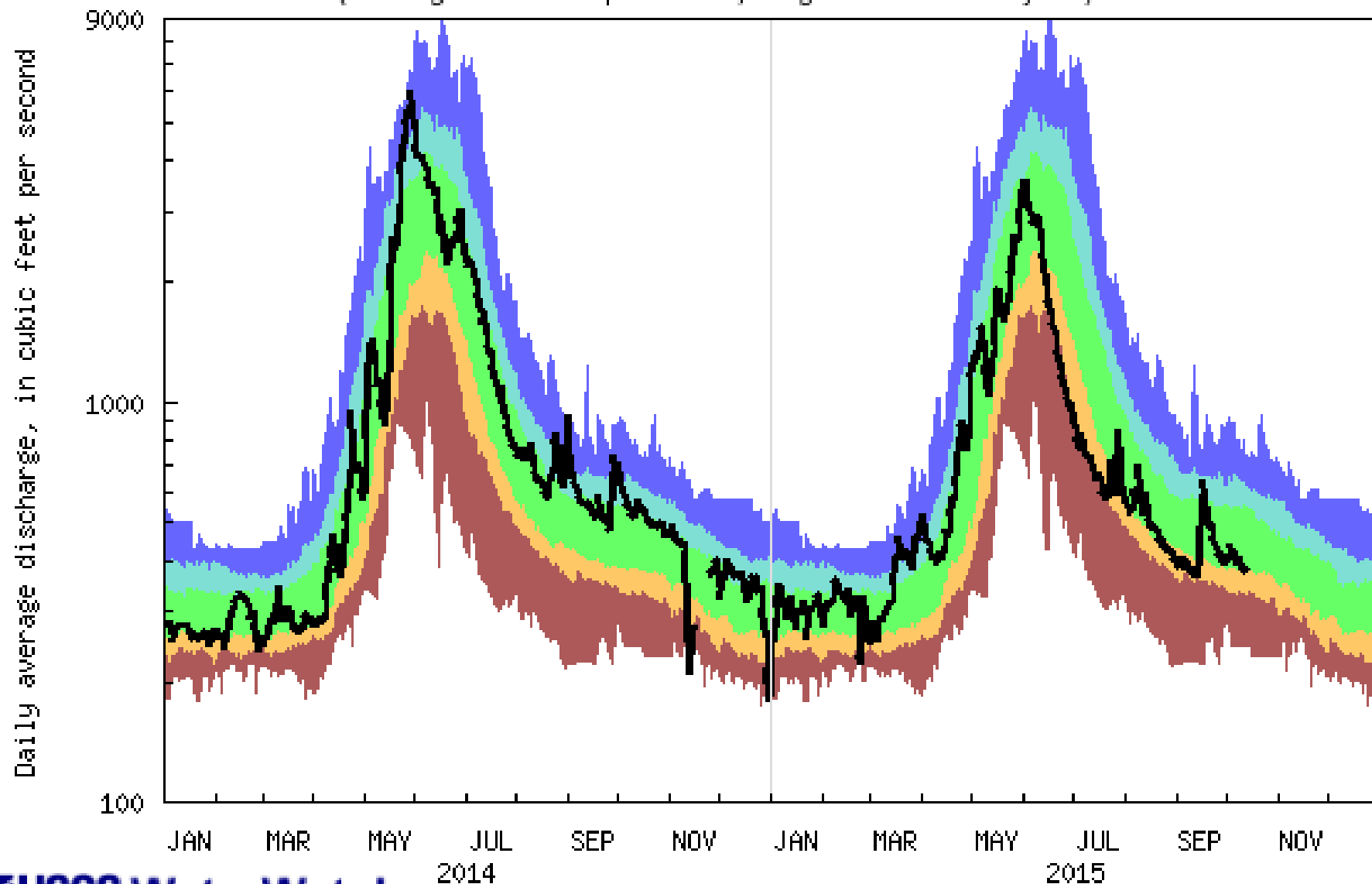








Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile - highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 06037500 Madison River near West Yellowstone MT  
(Drainage area: 420 square miles, Length of Record: 87 year)

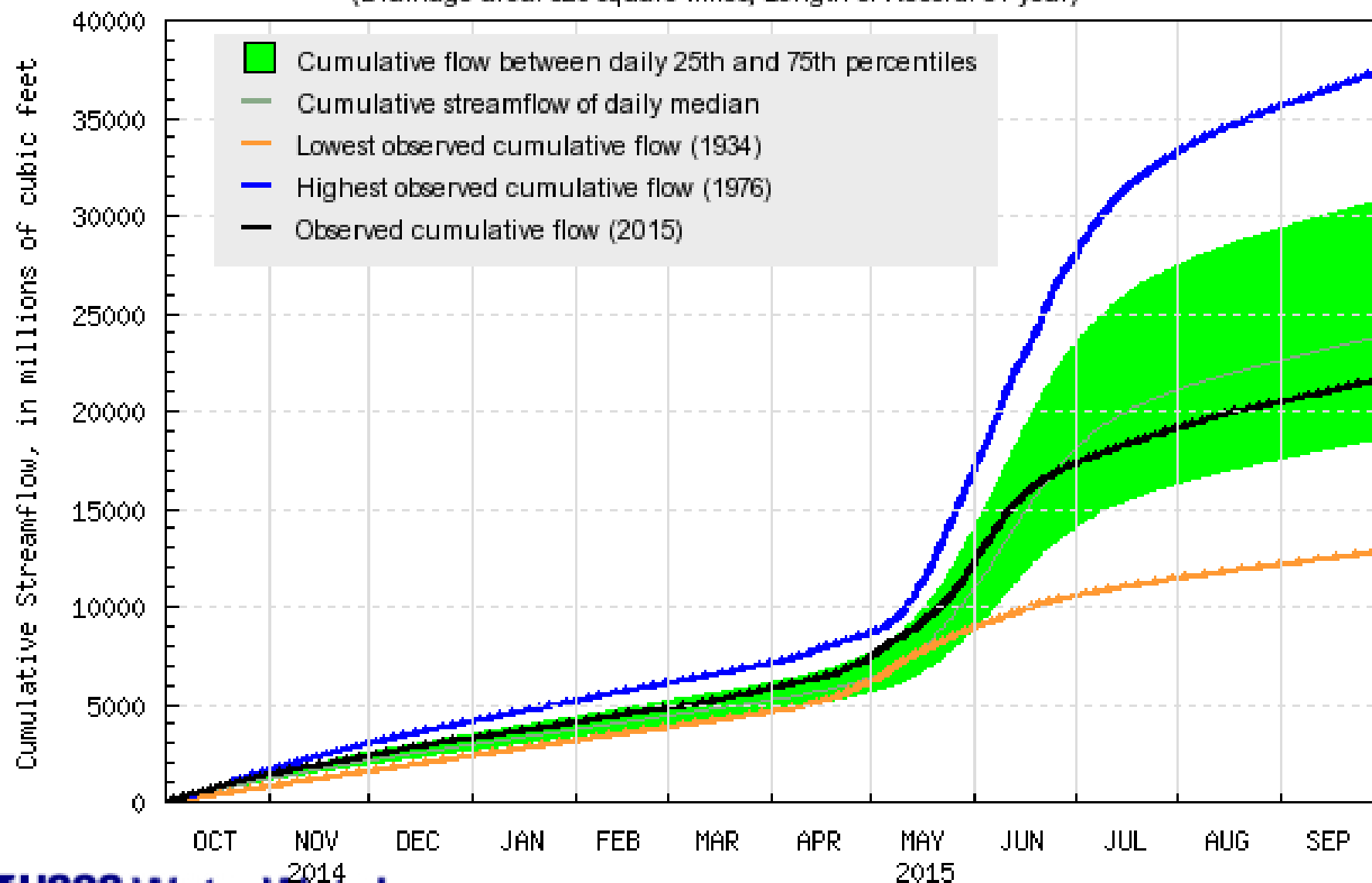


USGS 06043500 Gallatin River near Gallatin Gateway MT  
(Drainage Area: 825 square miles, Length of Record: 125 years)



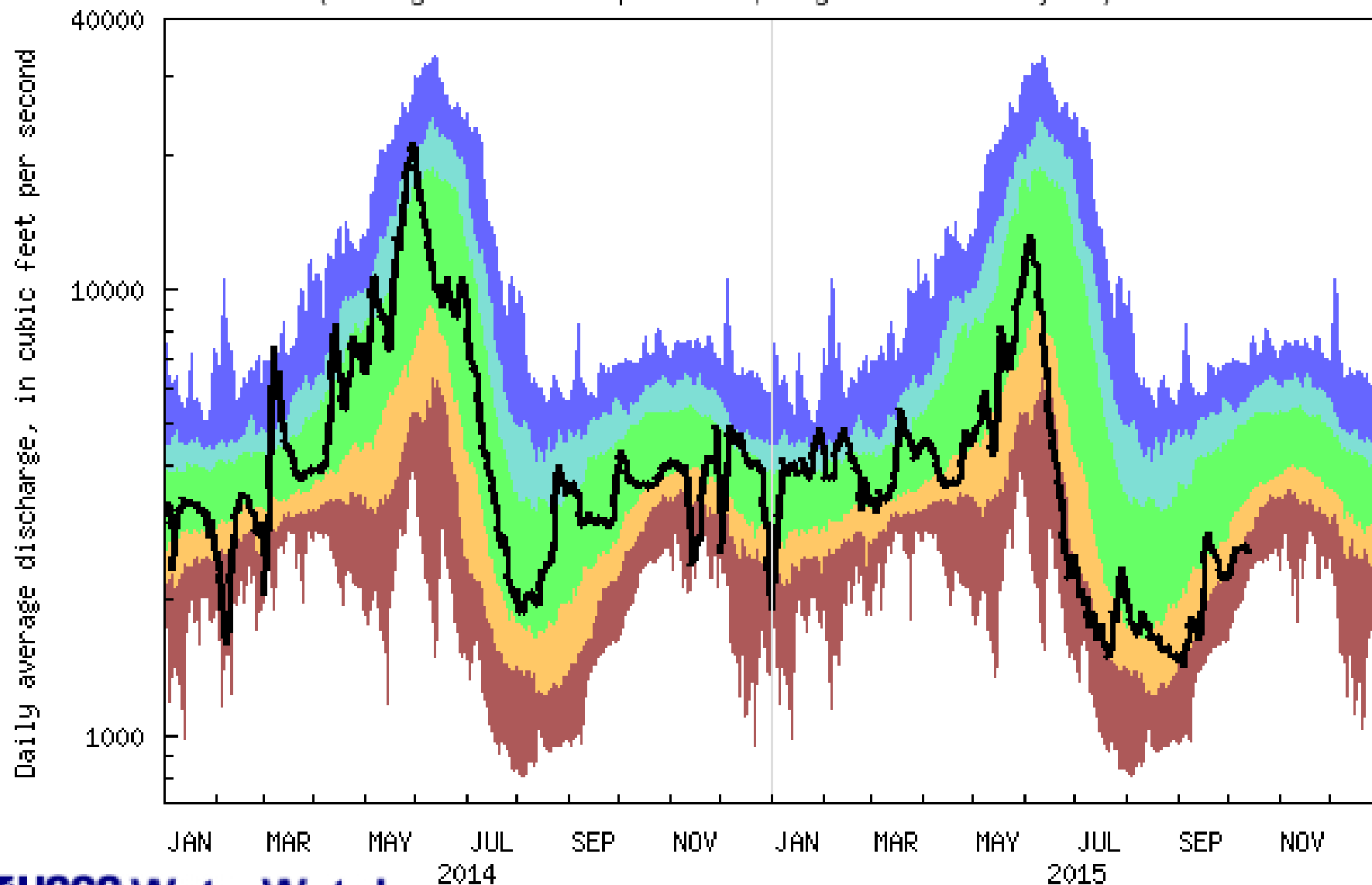
Explanation - Percentile classes					
					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 06043500 Gallatin River near Gallatin Gateway MT  
(Drainage area: 825 square miles, Length of Record: 84 year)



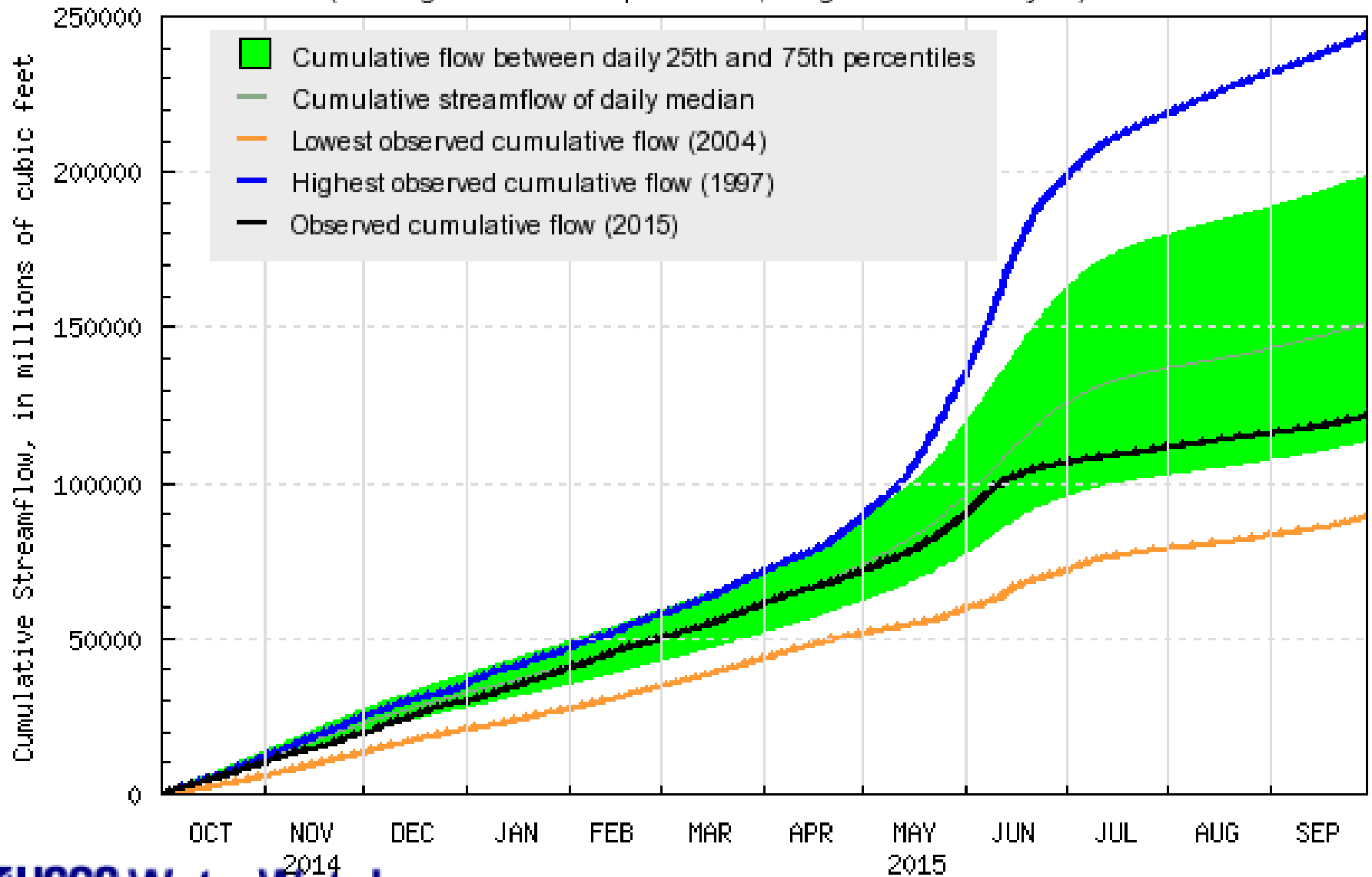


USGS 06054500 Missouri River at Toston MT  
(Drainage Area: 14669 square miles, Length of Record: 125 years)

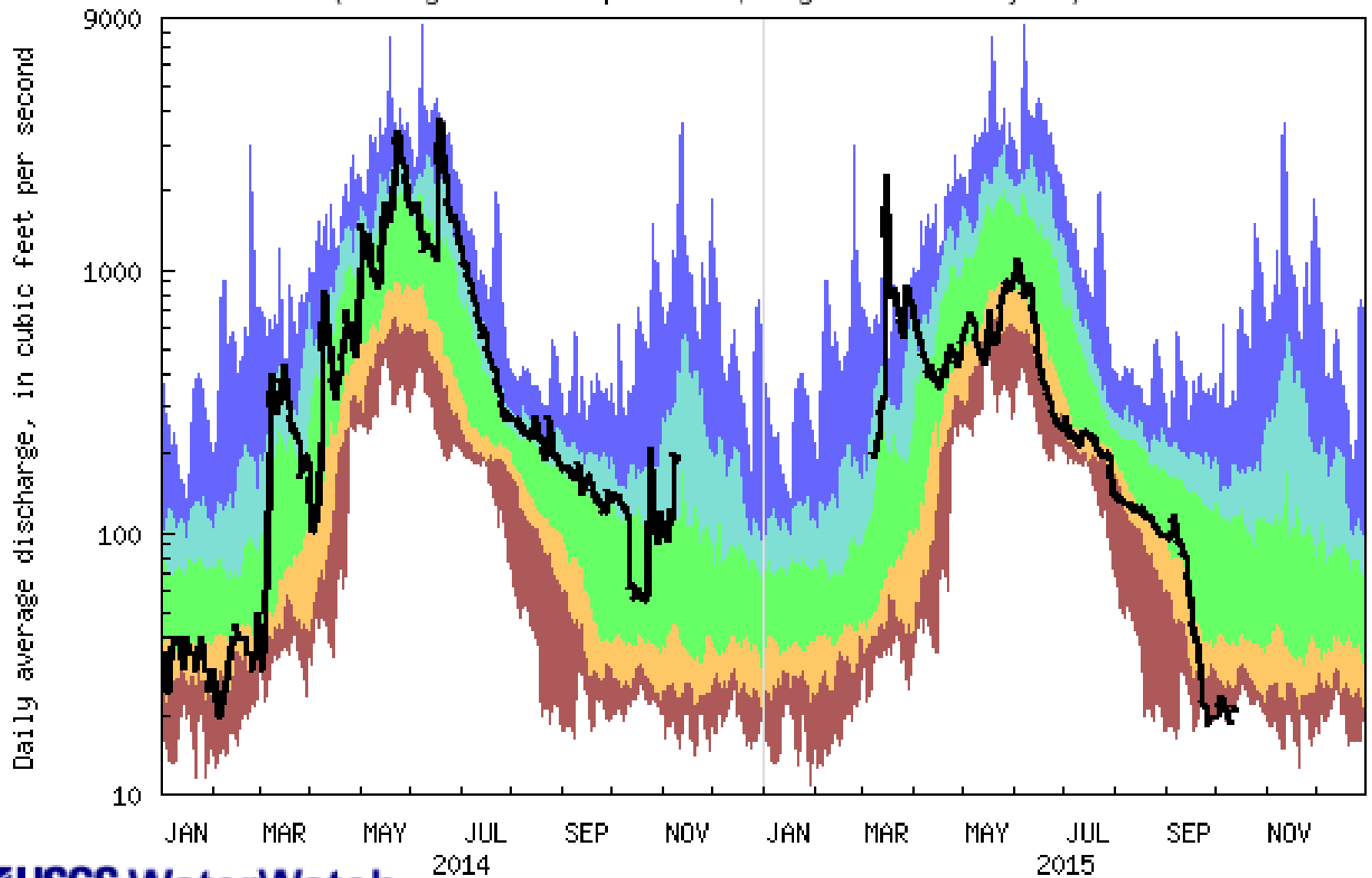


Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 06054500 Missouri River at Toston MT  
(Drainage area: 14669 square miles, Length of Record: 81 year)

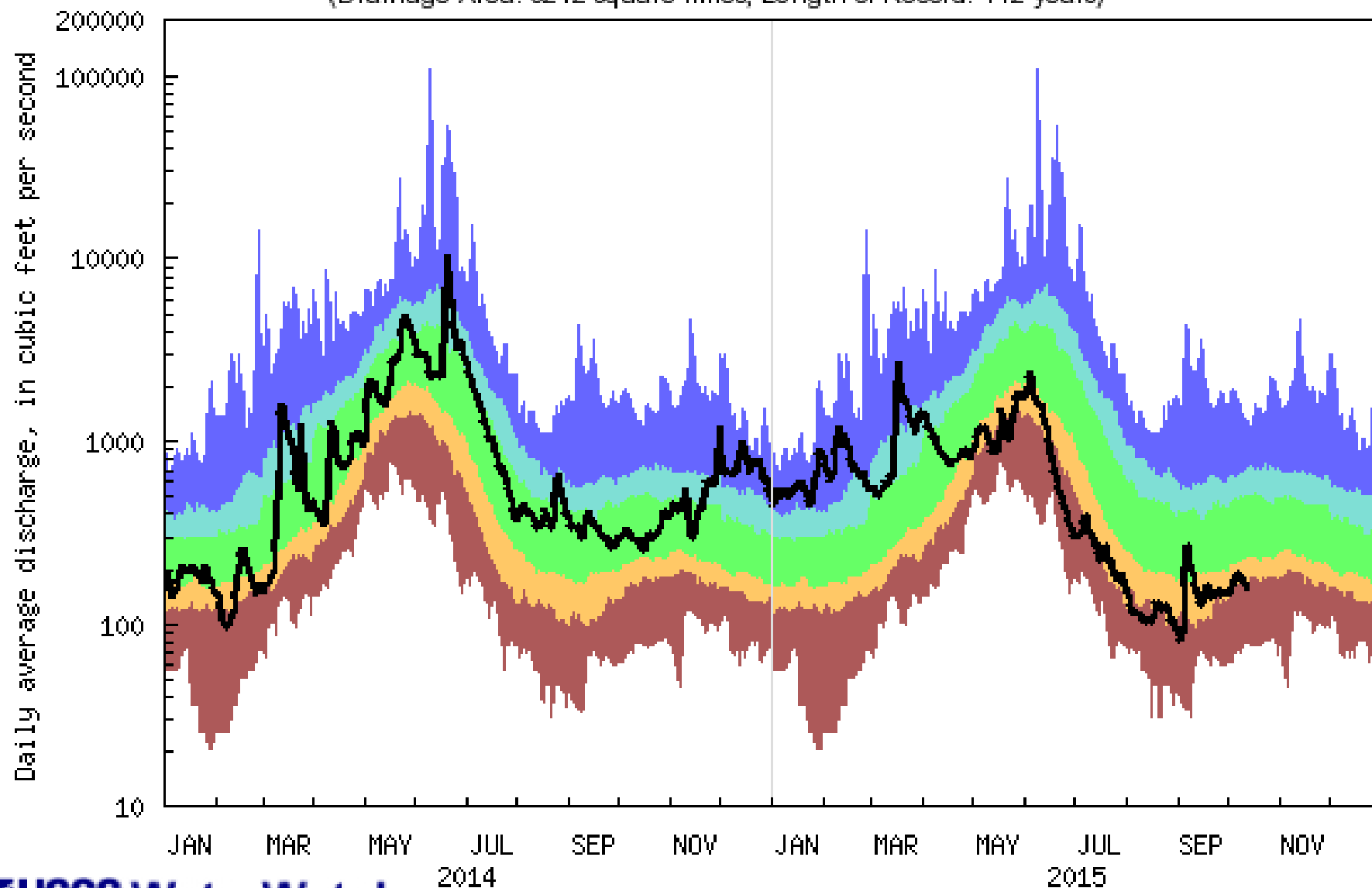


USGS 06091700 Two Medicine River bl South Fork nr Browning MT  
(Drainage Area: 250 square miles, Length of Record: 37 years)



Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

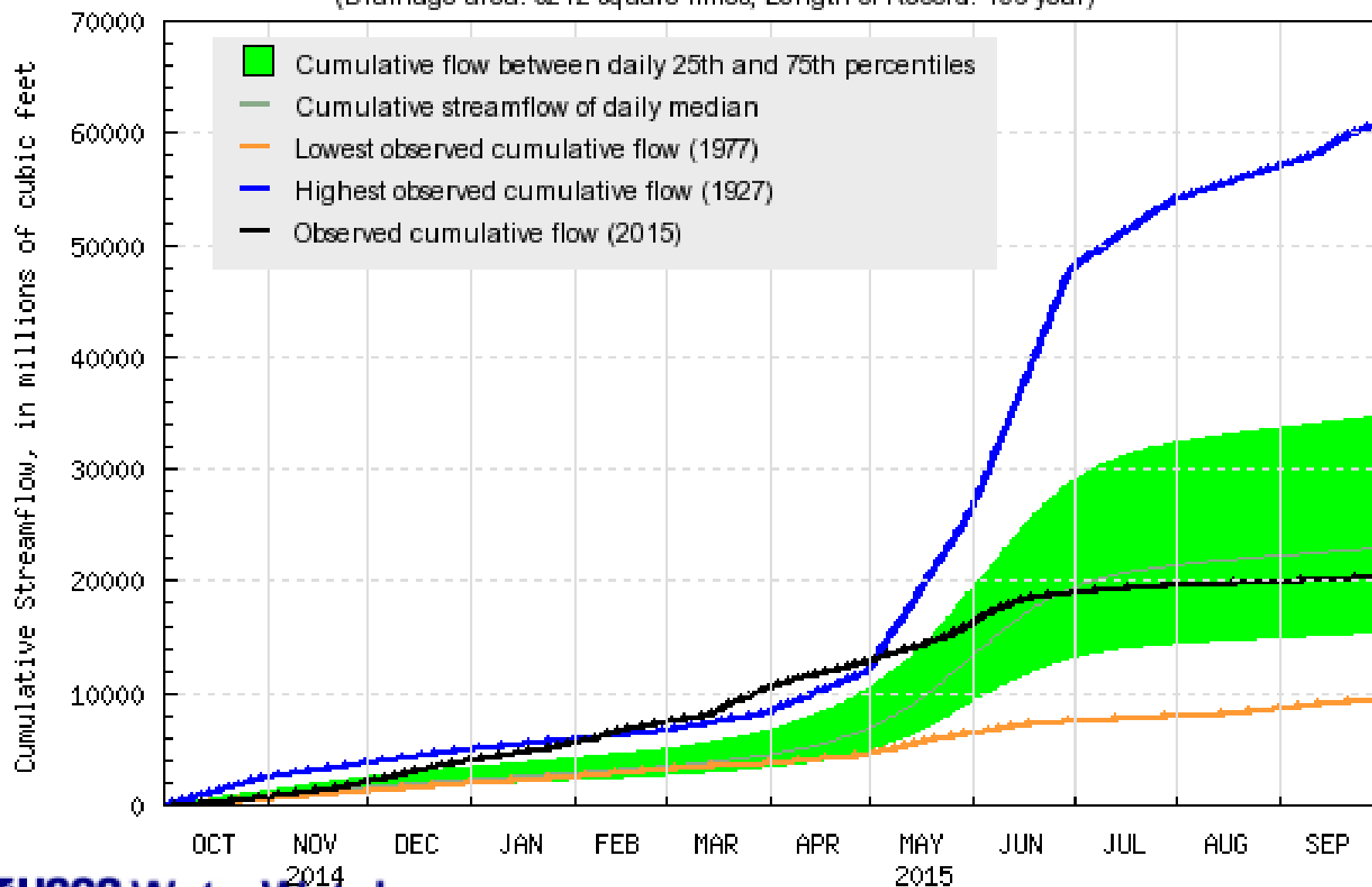
USGS 06099500 Marias River near Shelby MT  
(Drainage Area: 3242 square miles, Length of Record: 112 years)



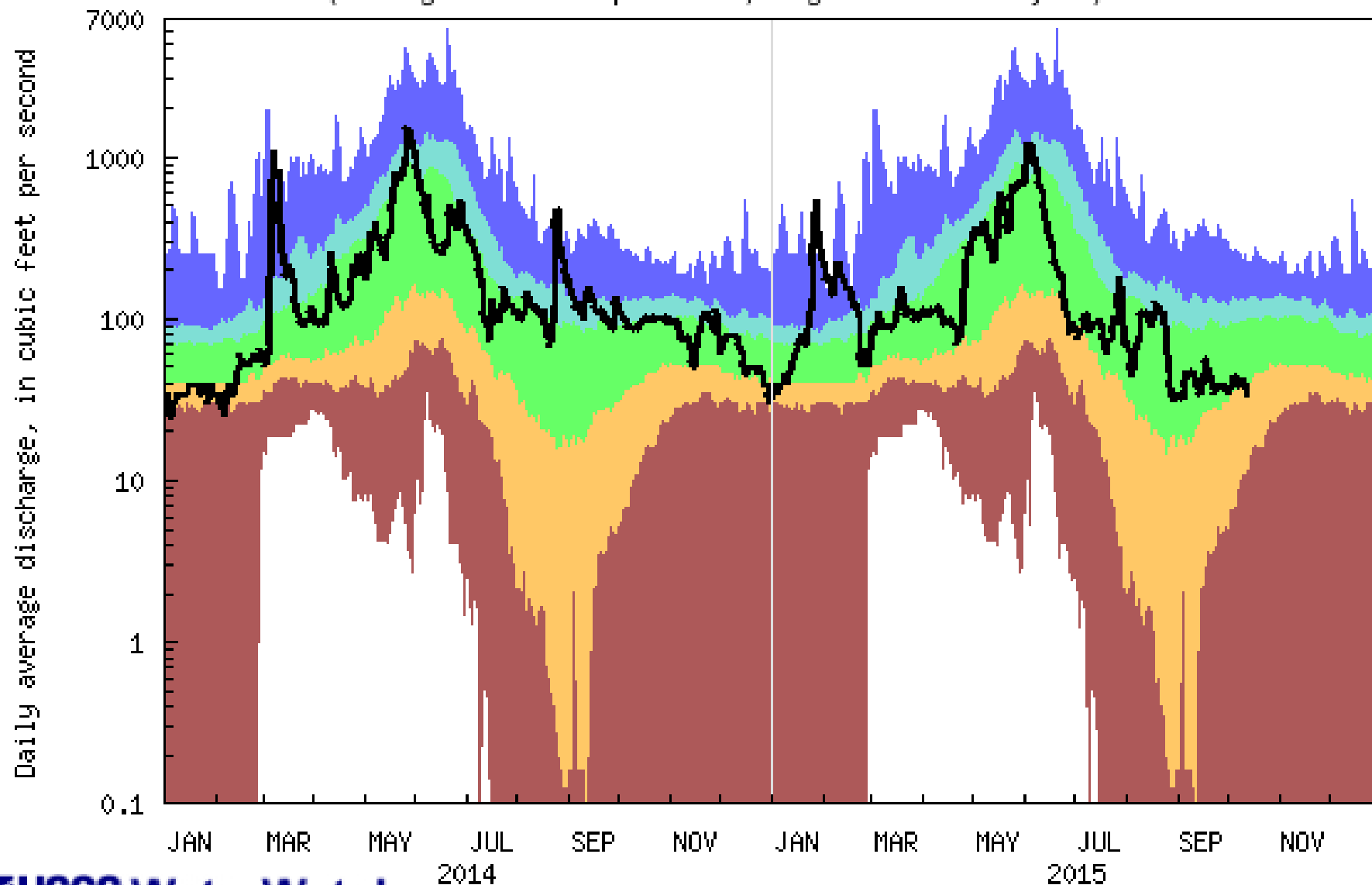
Explanation - Percentile classes					Flow
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	



USGS 06099500 Marias River near Shelby MT  
(Drainage area: 3242 square miles, Length of Record: 106 year)

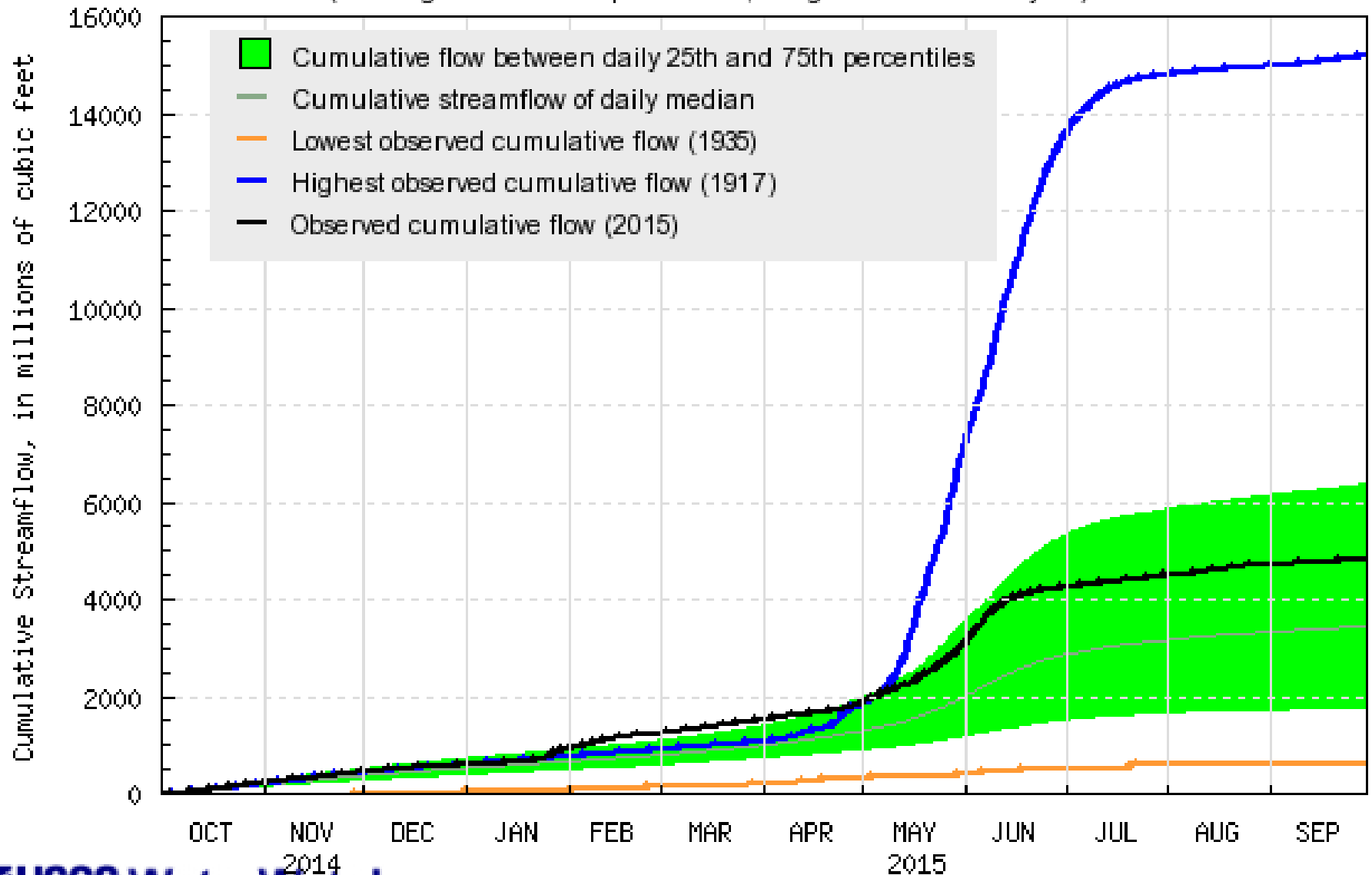


USGS 06120500 Musselshell River at Harlowton MT  
(Drainage Area: 1125 square miles, Length of Record: 107 years)

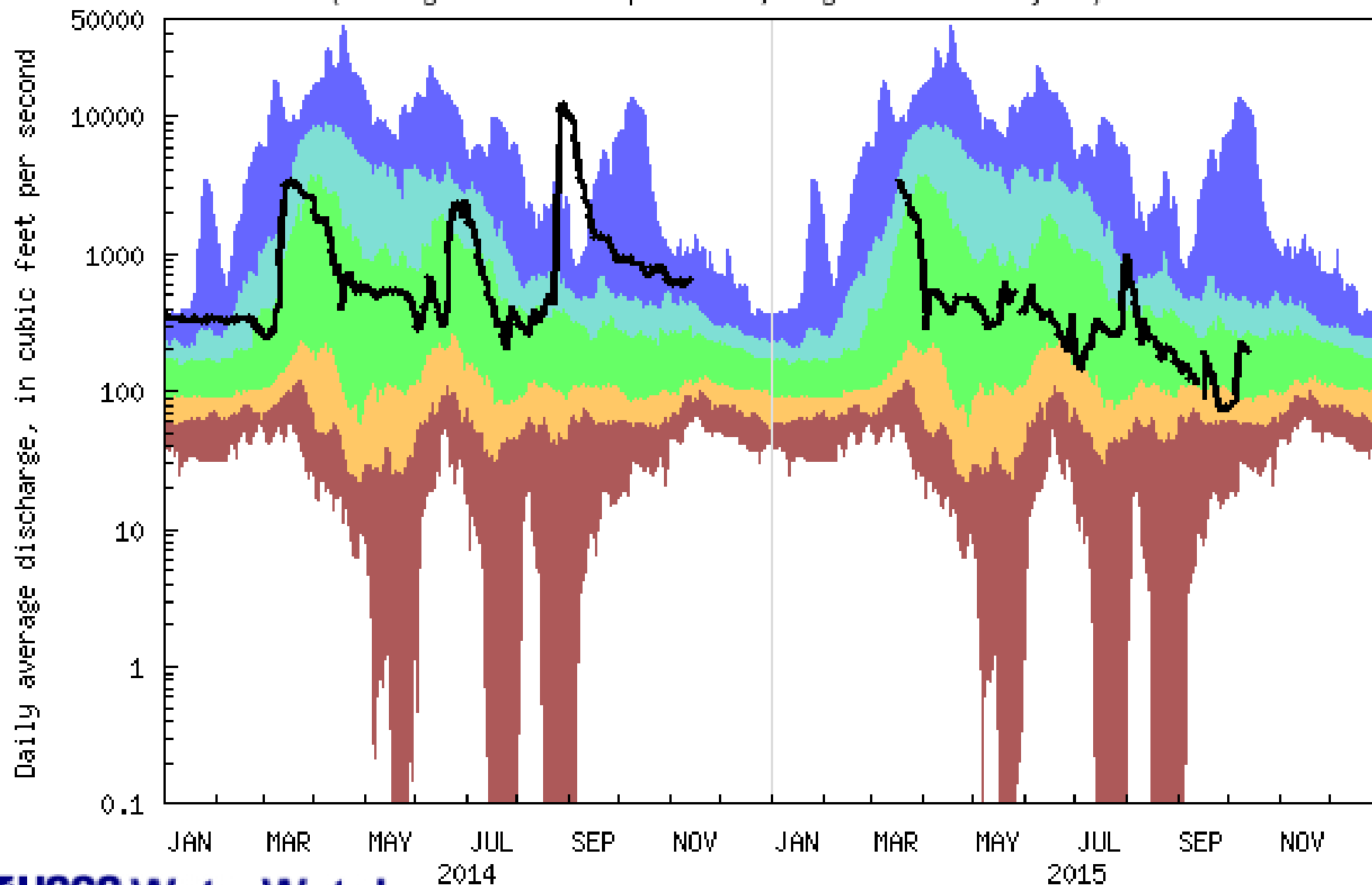


Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 06120500 Musselshell River at Harlowton MT  
(Drainage area: 1125 square miles, Length of Record: 103 year)



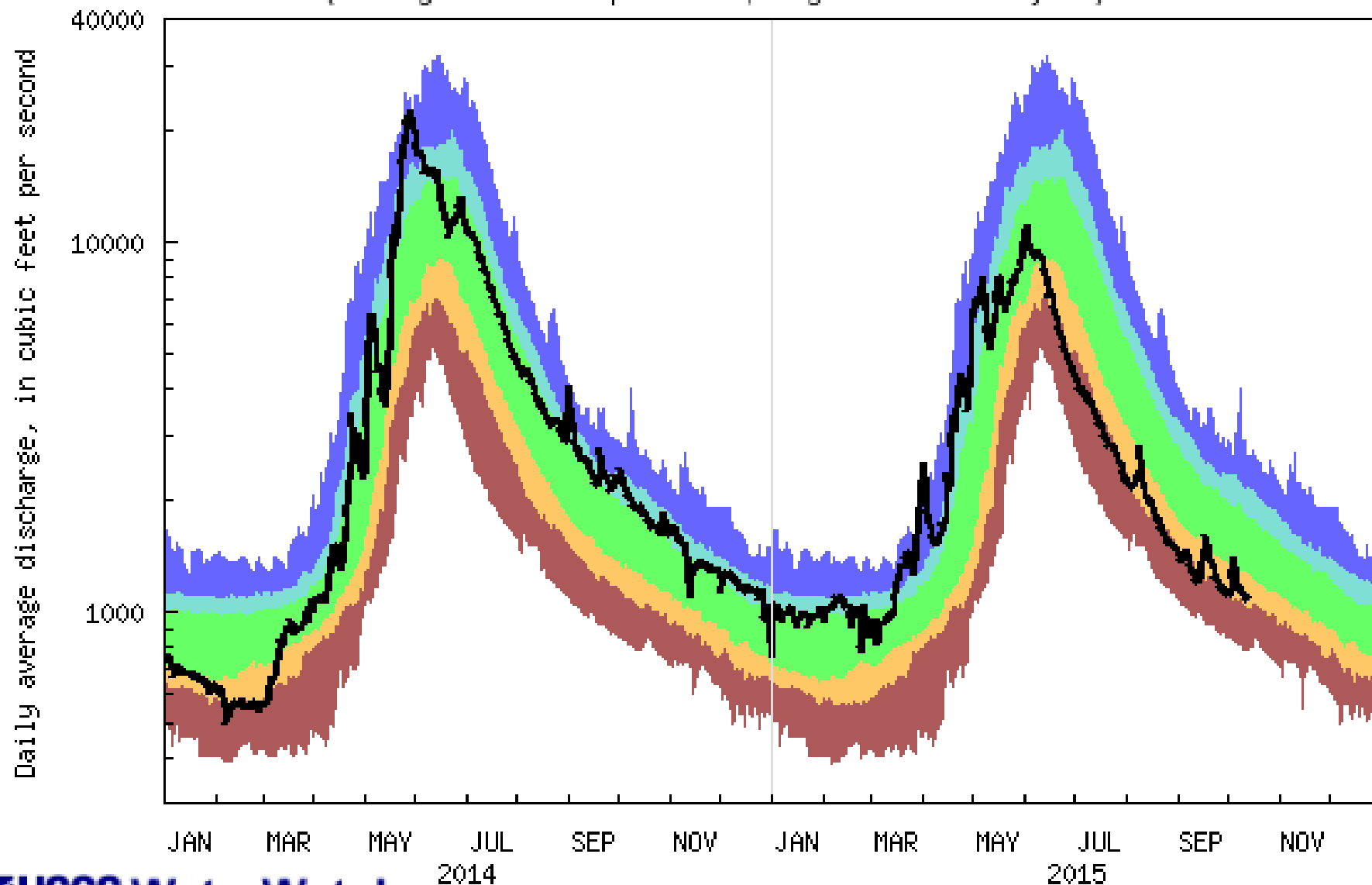
USGS 06174500 Milk River at Nashua MT  
(Drainage Area: 22332 square miles, Length of Record: 74 years)



Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

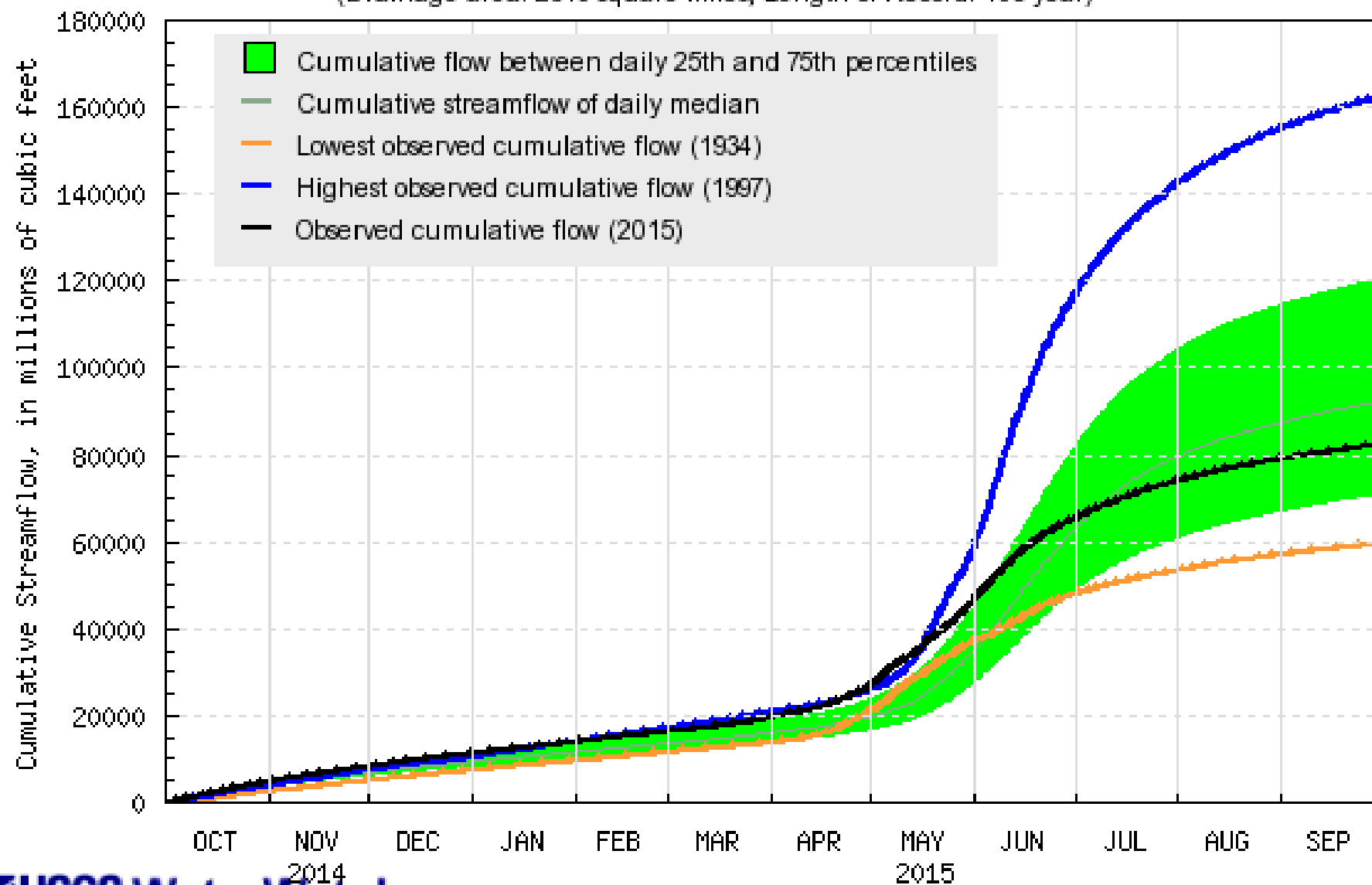


USGS 06191500 Yellowstone River at Corwin Springs MT  
(Drainage Area: 2619 square miles, Length of Record: 125 years)

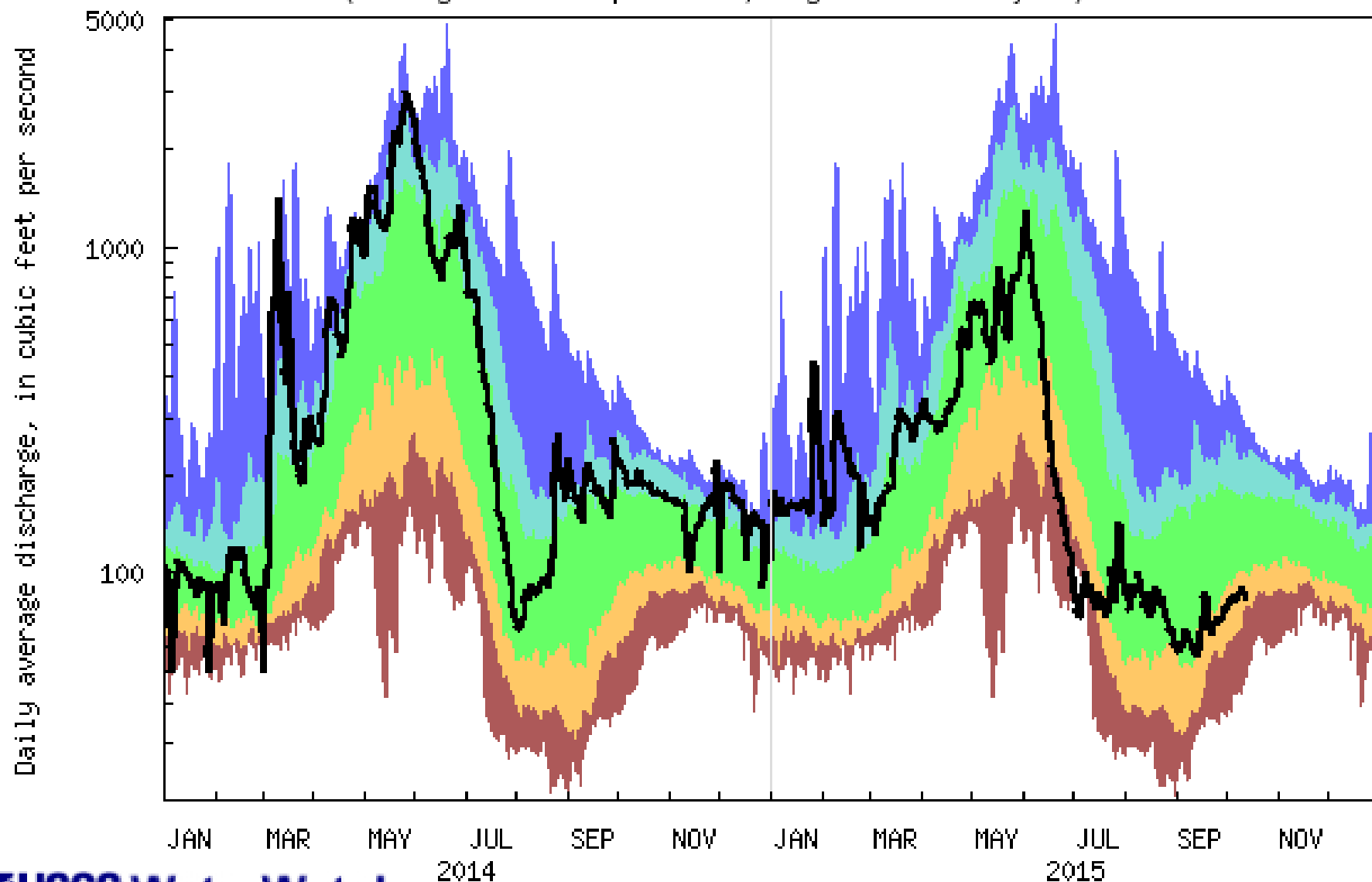


Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 06191500 Yellowstone River at Corwin Springs MT  
(Drainage area: 2619 square miles, Length of Record: 108 year)

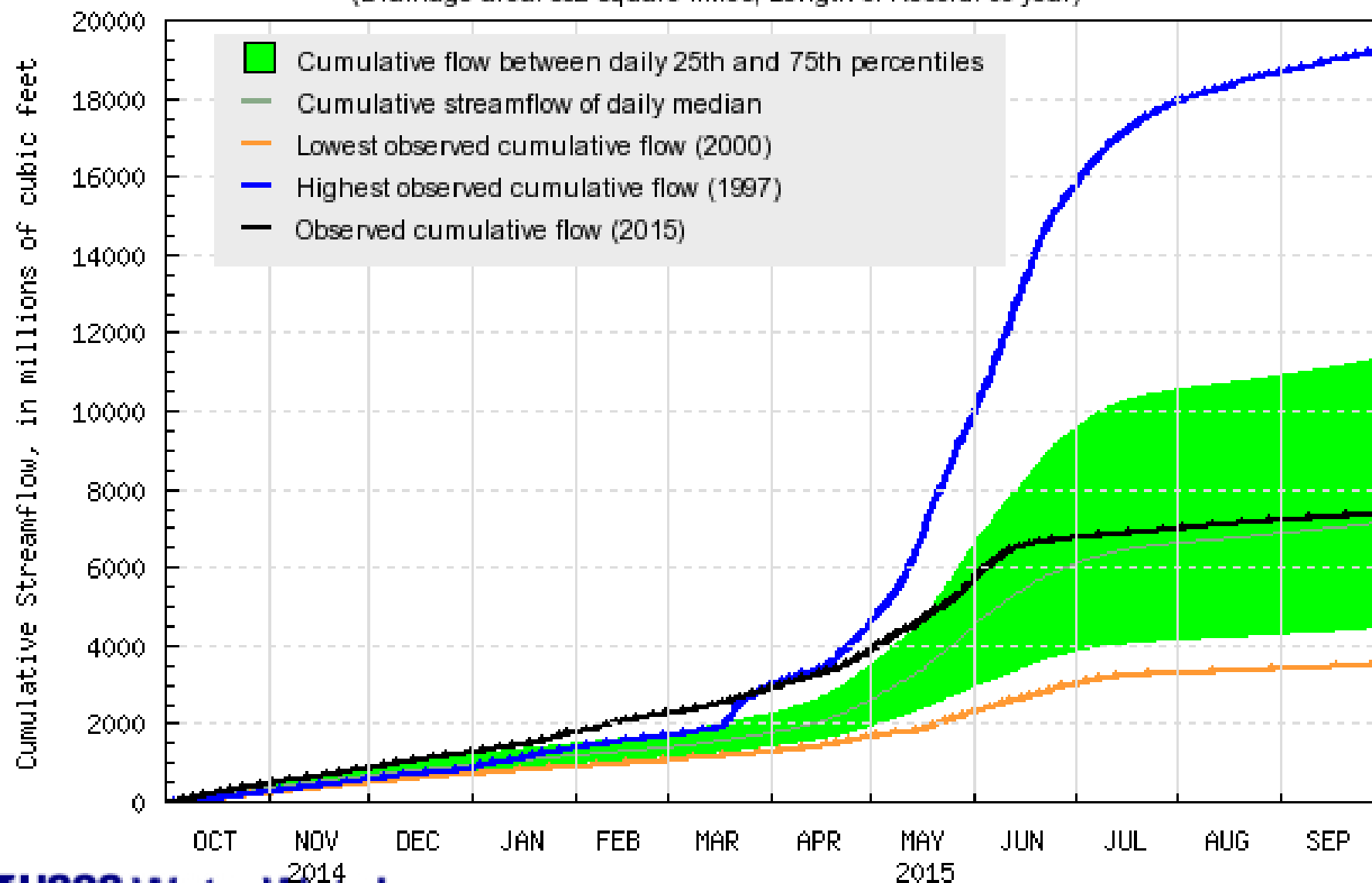


USGS 06195600 Shields River nr Livingston MT  
(Drainage Area: 852 square miles, Length of Record: 36 years)



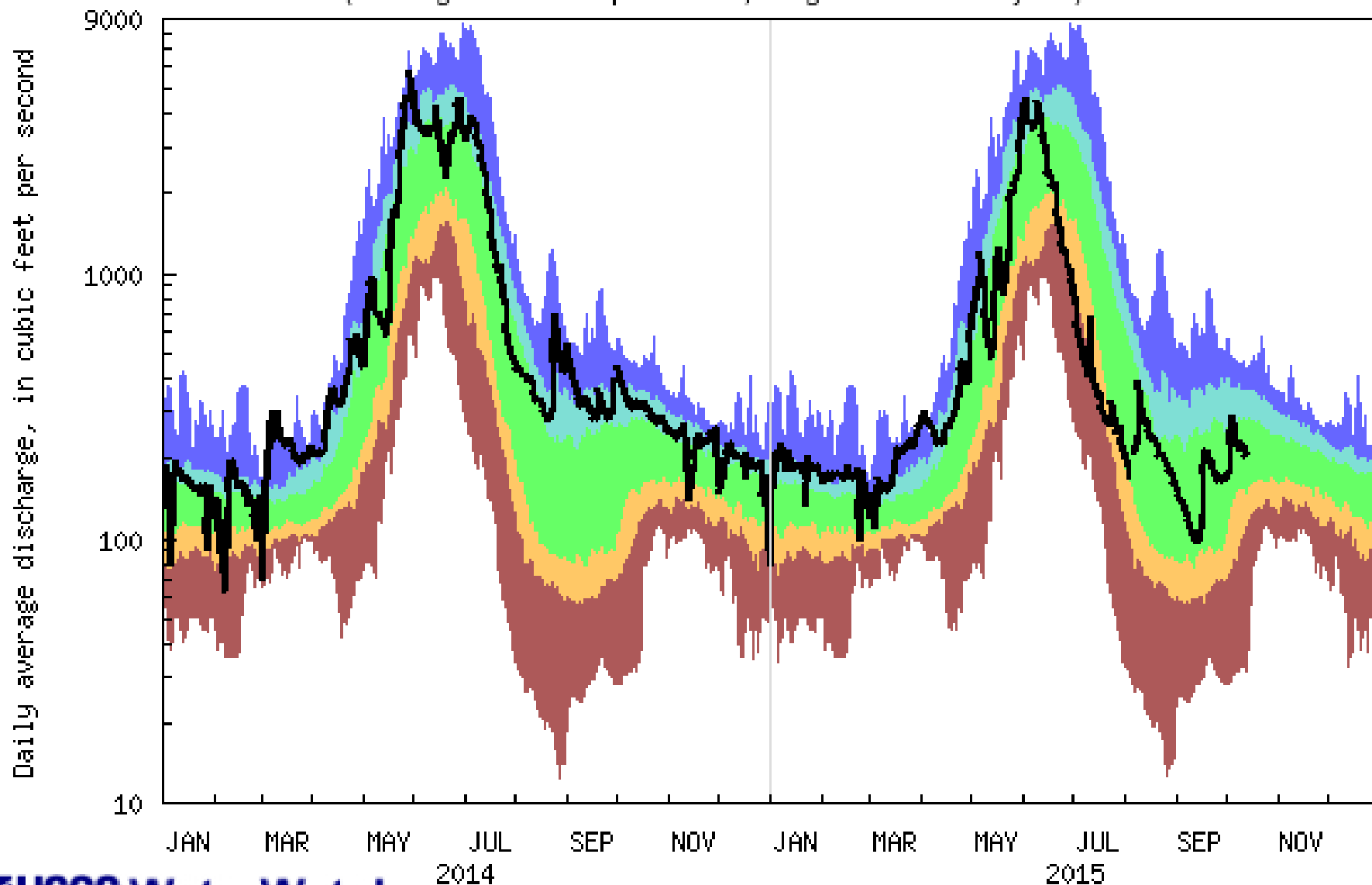
Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 06195600 Shields River nr Livingston MT  
(Drainage area: 852 square miles, Length of Record: 36 year)



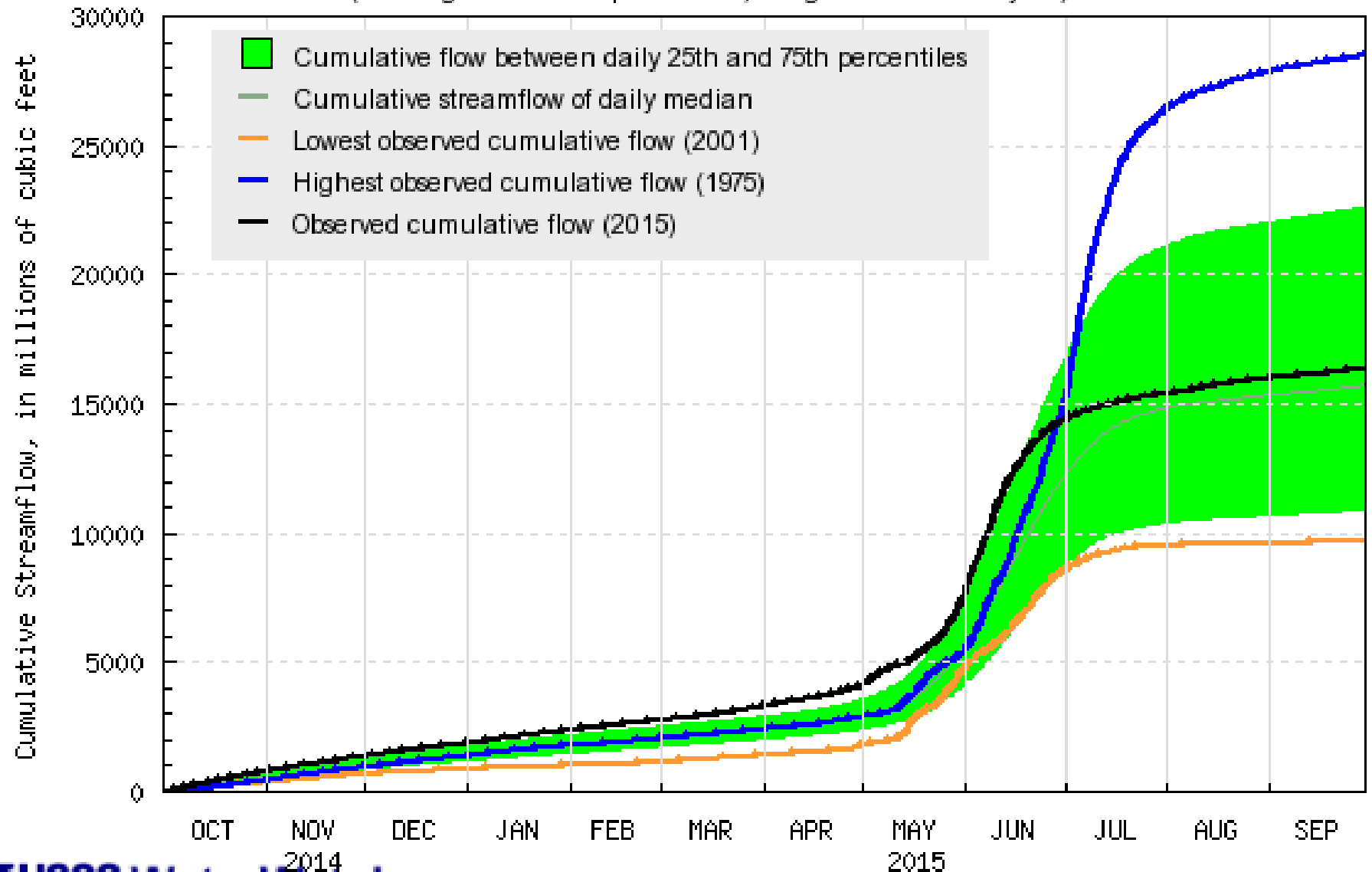


USGS 06200000 Boulder River at Big Timber MT  
(Drainage Area: 523 square miles, Length of Record: 67 years)

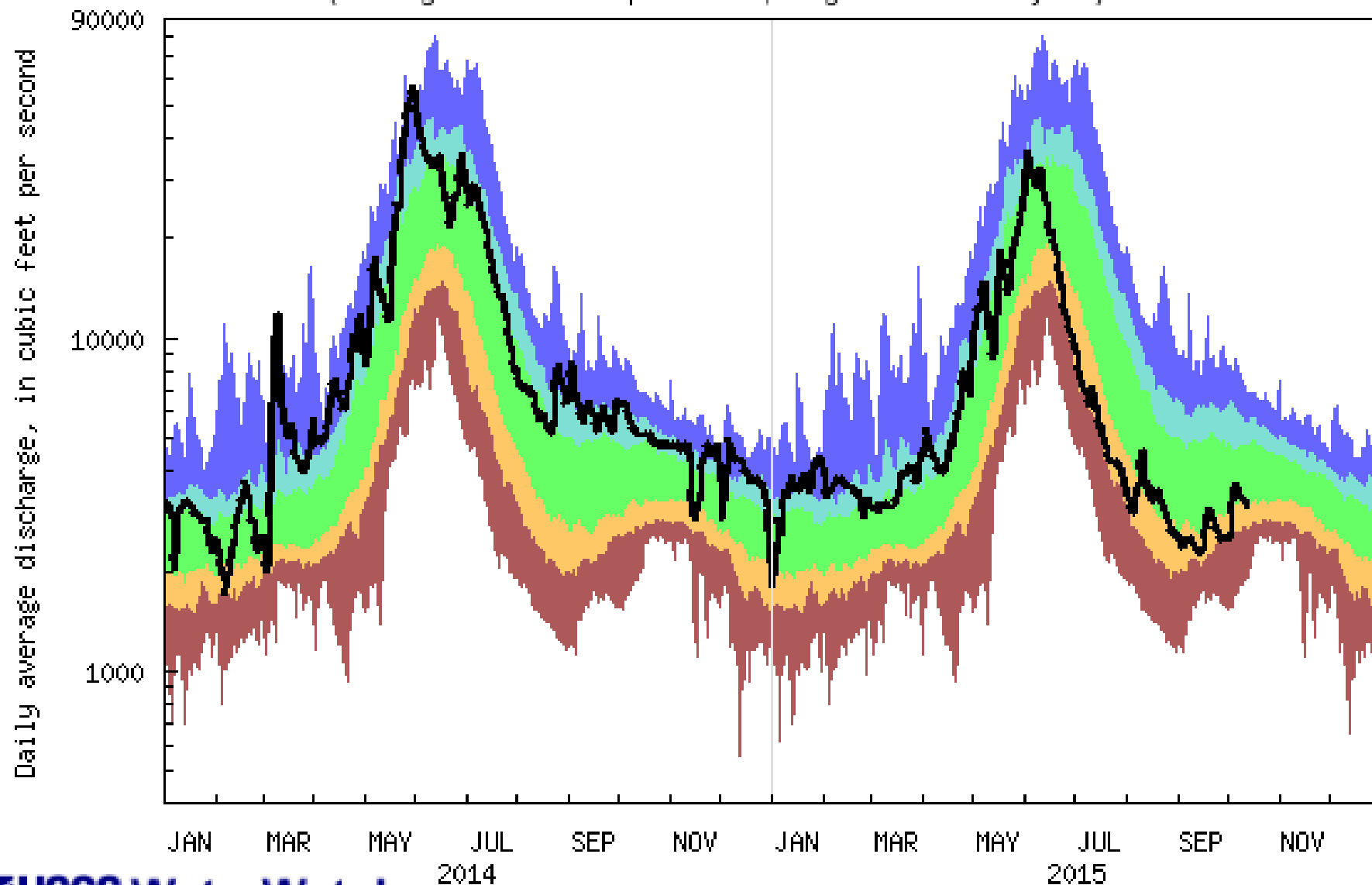


Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 06200000 Boulder River at Big Timber MT  
(Drainage area: 523 square miles, Length of Record: 65 year)

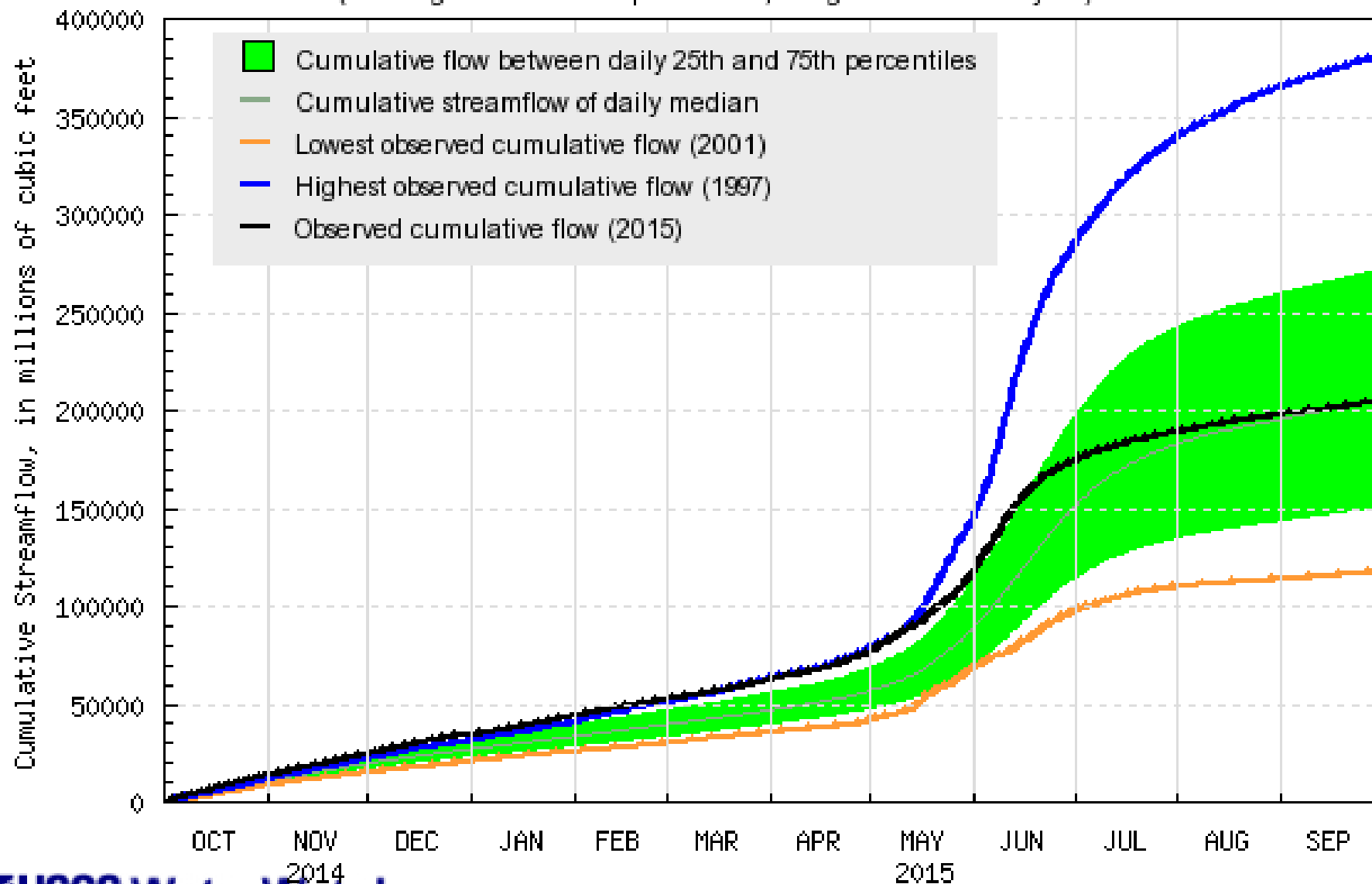


USGS 06214500 Yellowstone River at Billings MT  
(Drainage Area: 11805 square miles, Length of Record: 86 years)



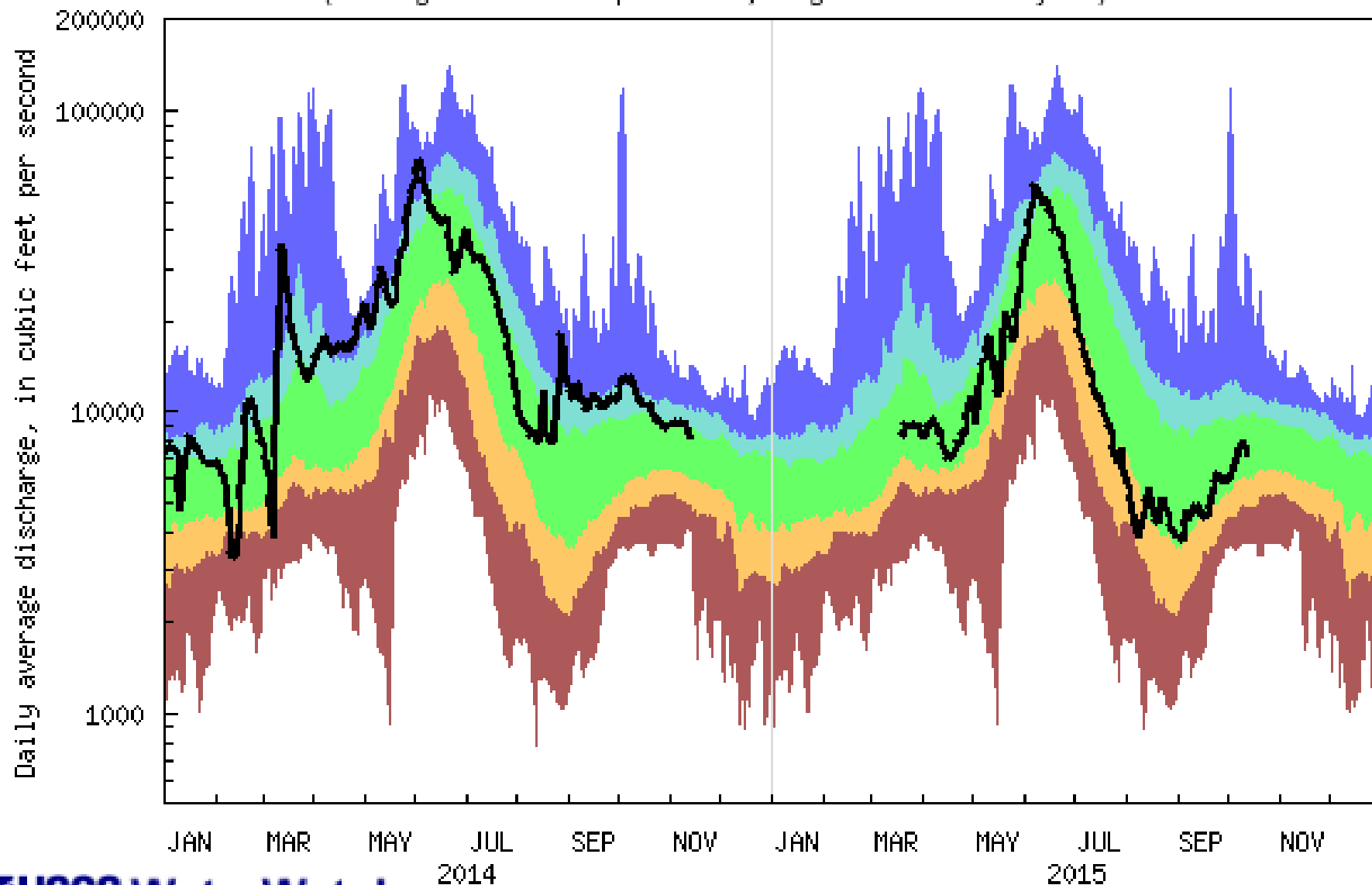
Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 06214500 Yellowstone River at Billings MT  
(Drainage area: 11805 square miles, Length of Record: 86 year)



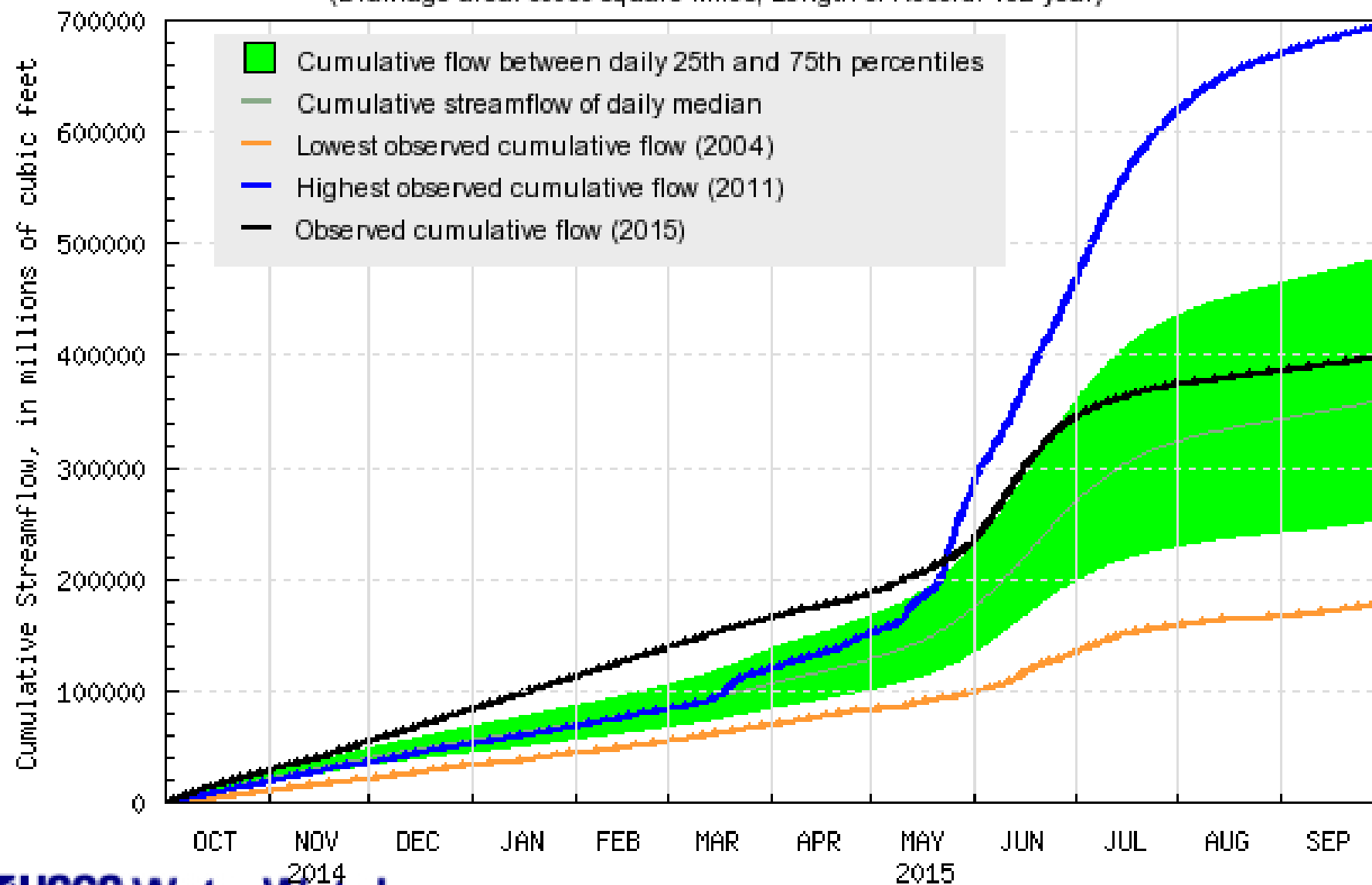


USGS 06329500 Yellowstone River near Sidney MT  
(Drainage Area: 69083 square miles, Length of Record: 104 years)

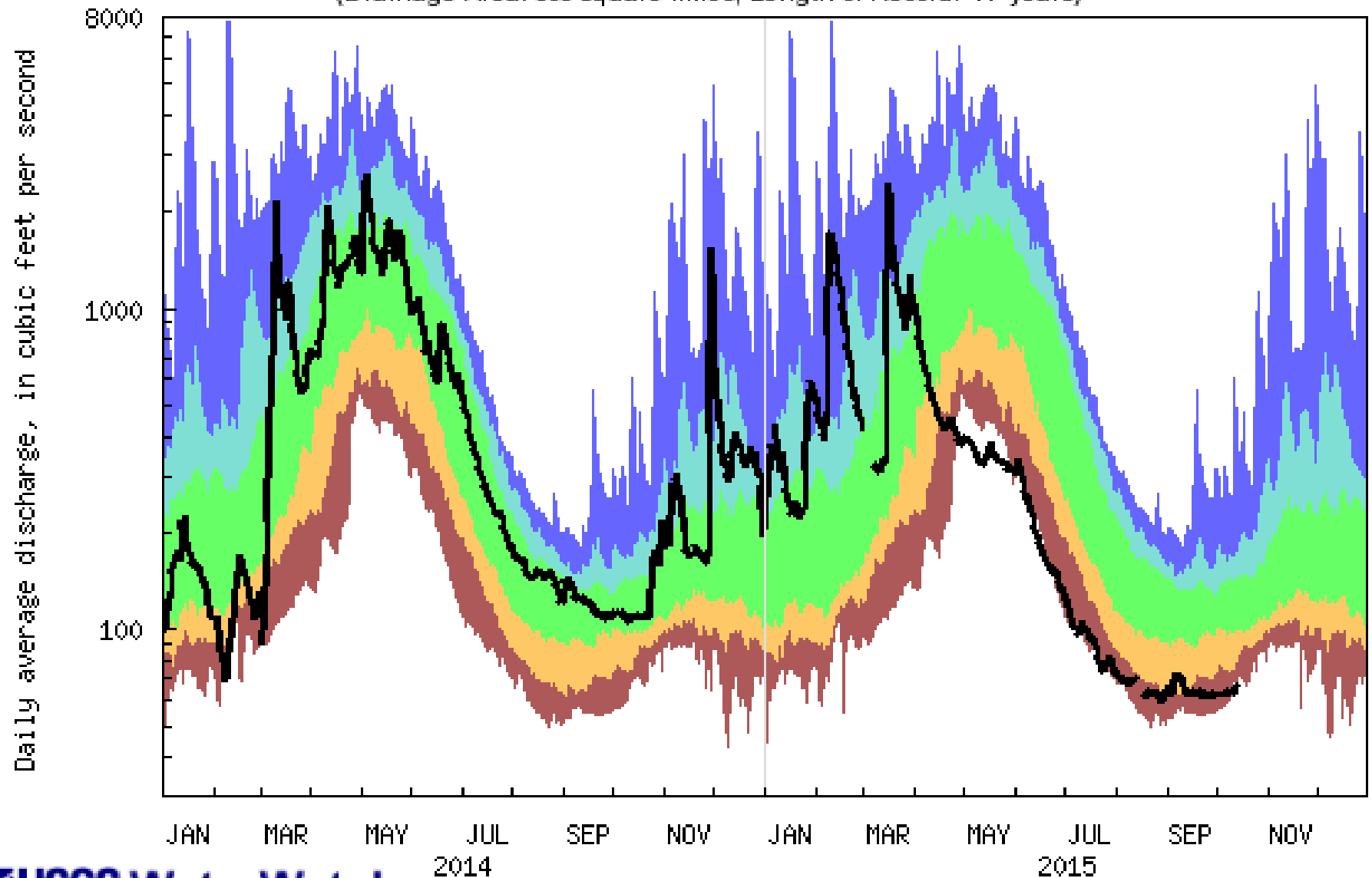


Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 06329500 Yellowstone River near Sidney MT  
(Drainage area: 69083 square miles, Length of Record: 102 year)

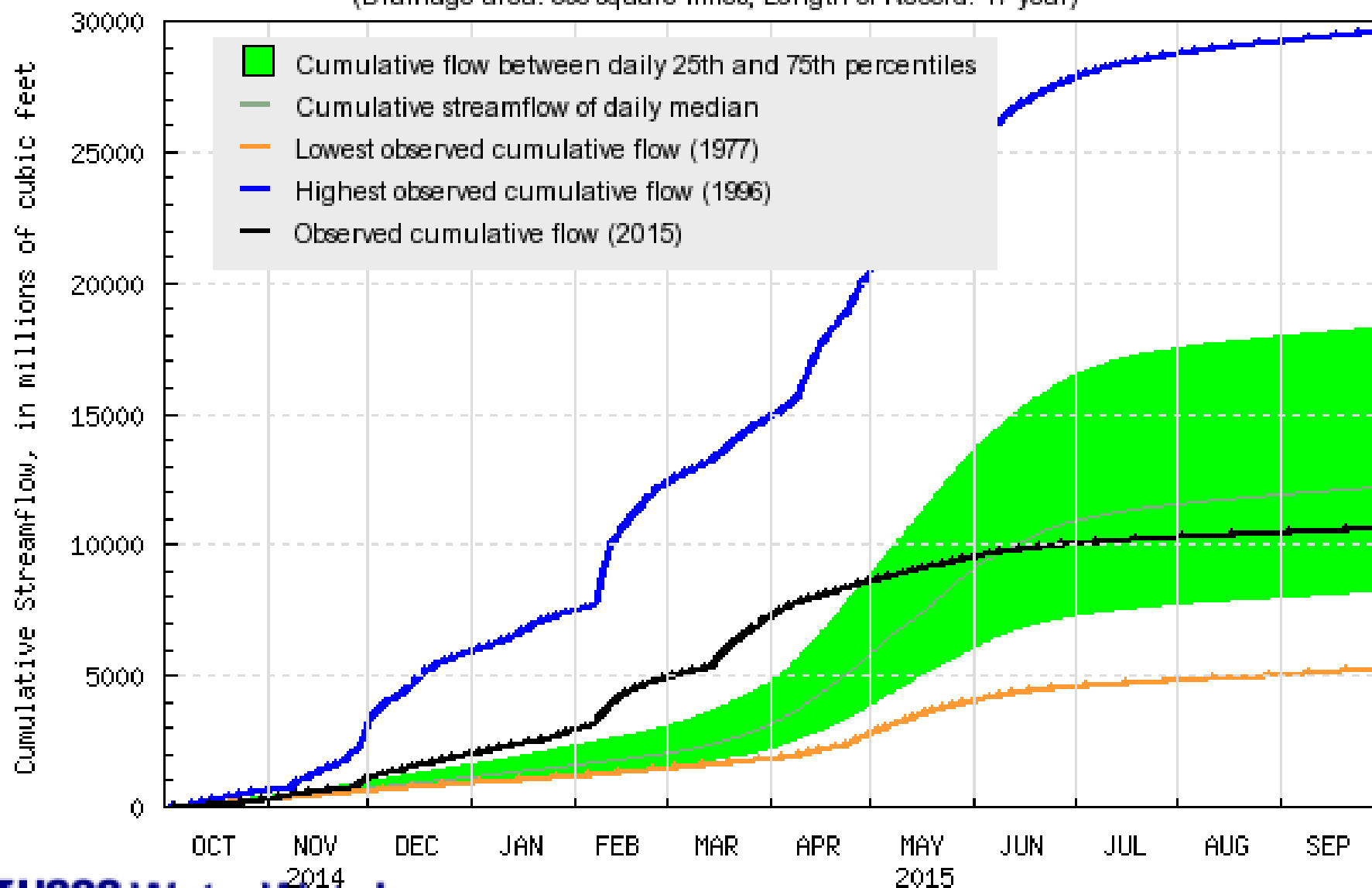


USGS 12302055 Fisher River near Libby MT  
(Drainage Area: 838 square miles, Length of Record: 47 years)



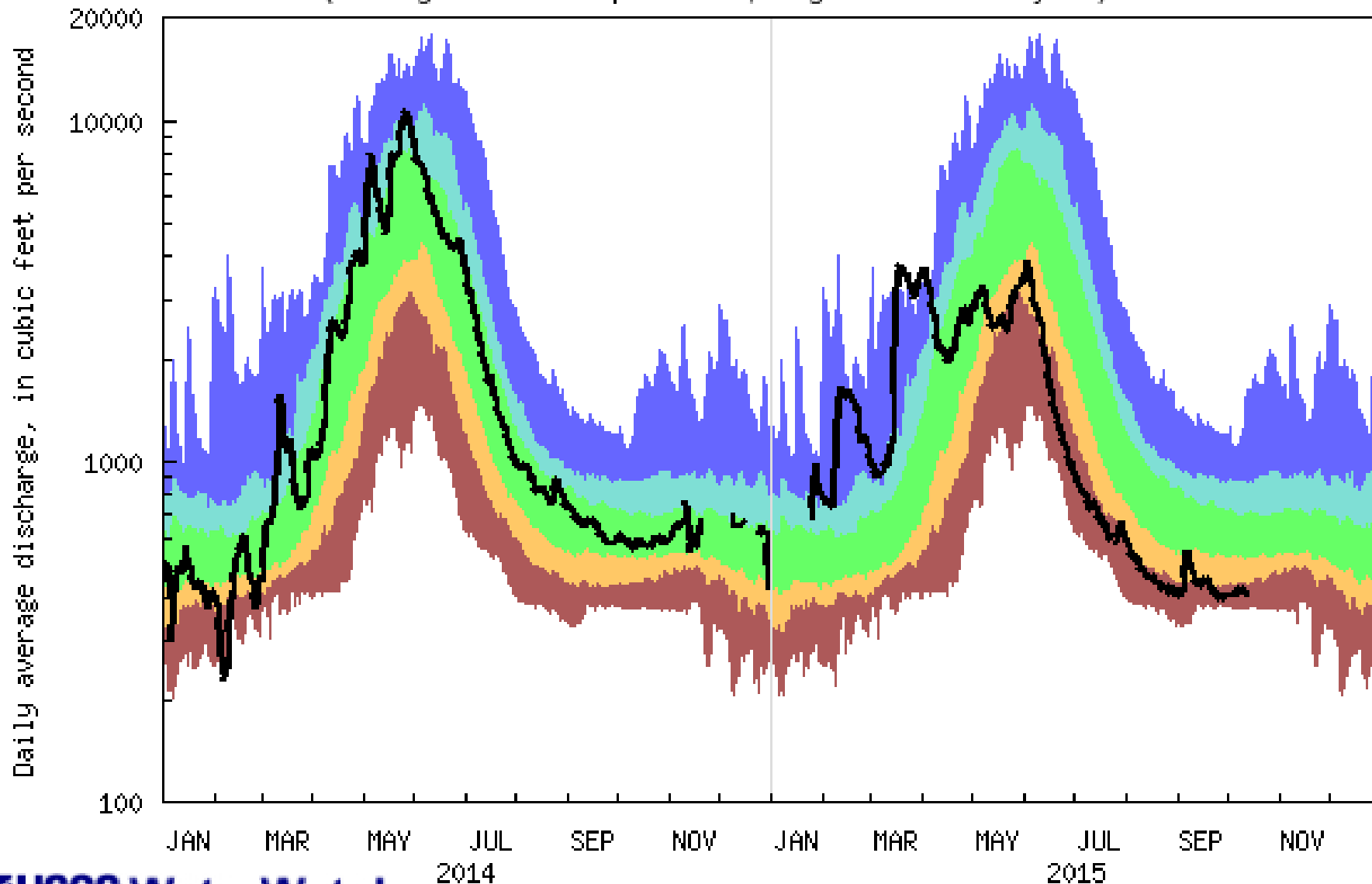
Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile - highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 12302055 Fisher River near Libby MT  
(Drainage area: 838 square miles, Length of Record: 47 year)



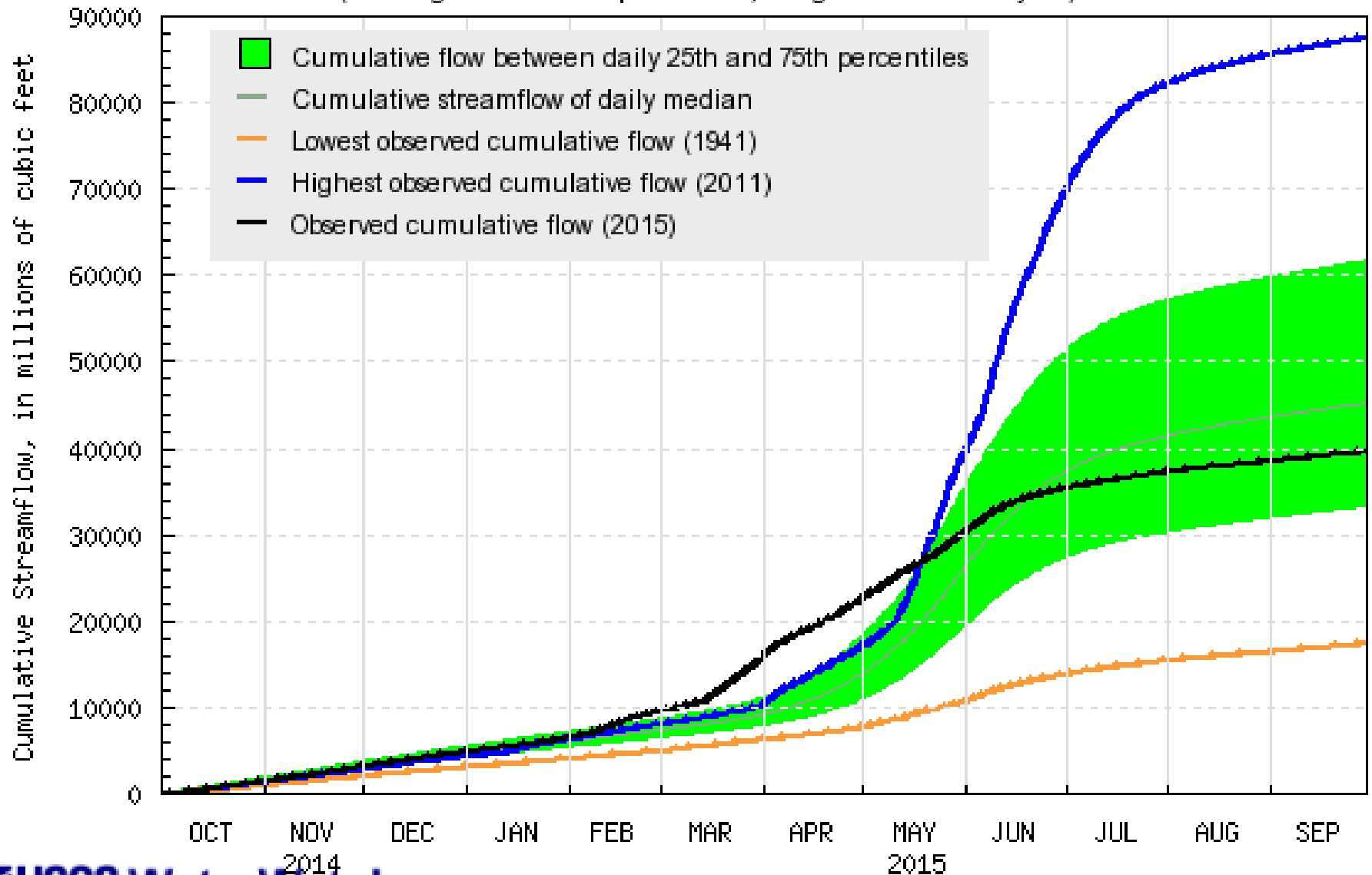


USGS 12340000 Blackfoot River near Bonner MT  
(Drainage Area: 2290 square miles, Length of Record: 116 years)

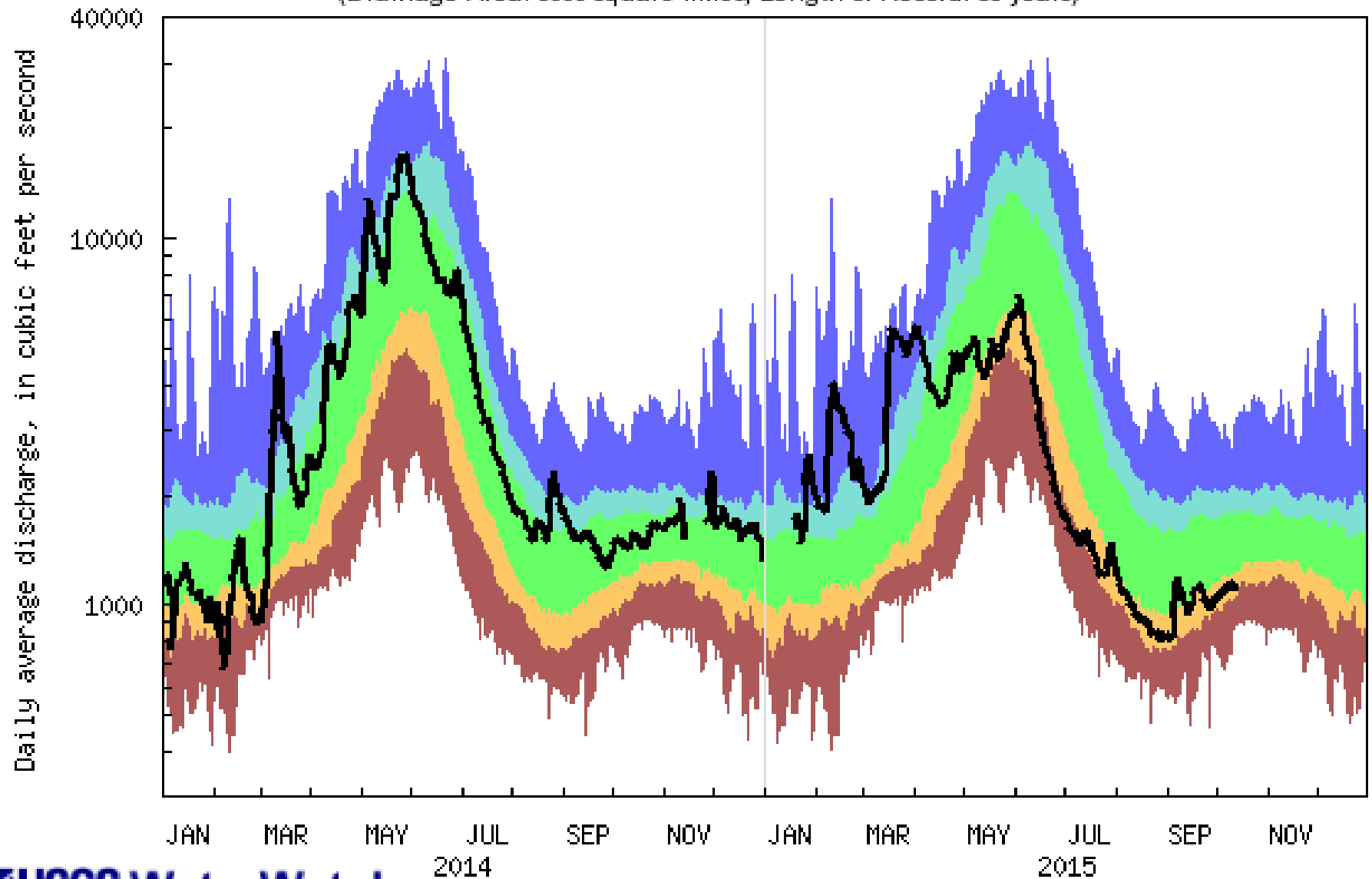


Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 12340000 Blackfoot River near Bonner MT  
(Drainage area: 2290 square miles, Length of Record: 79 year)

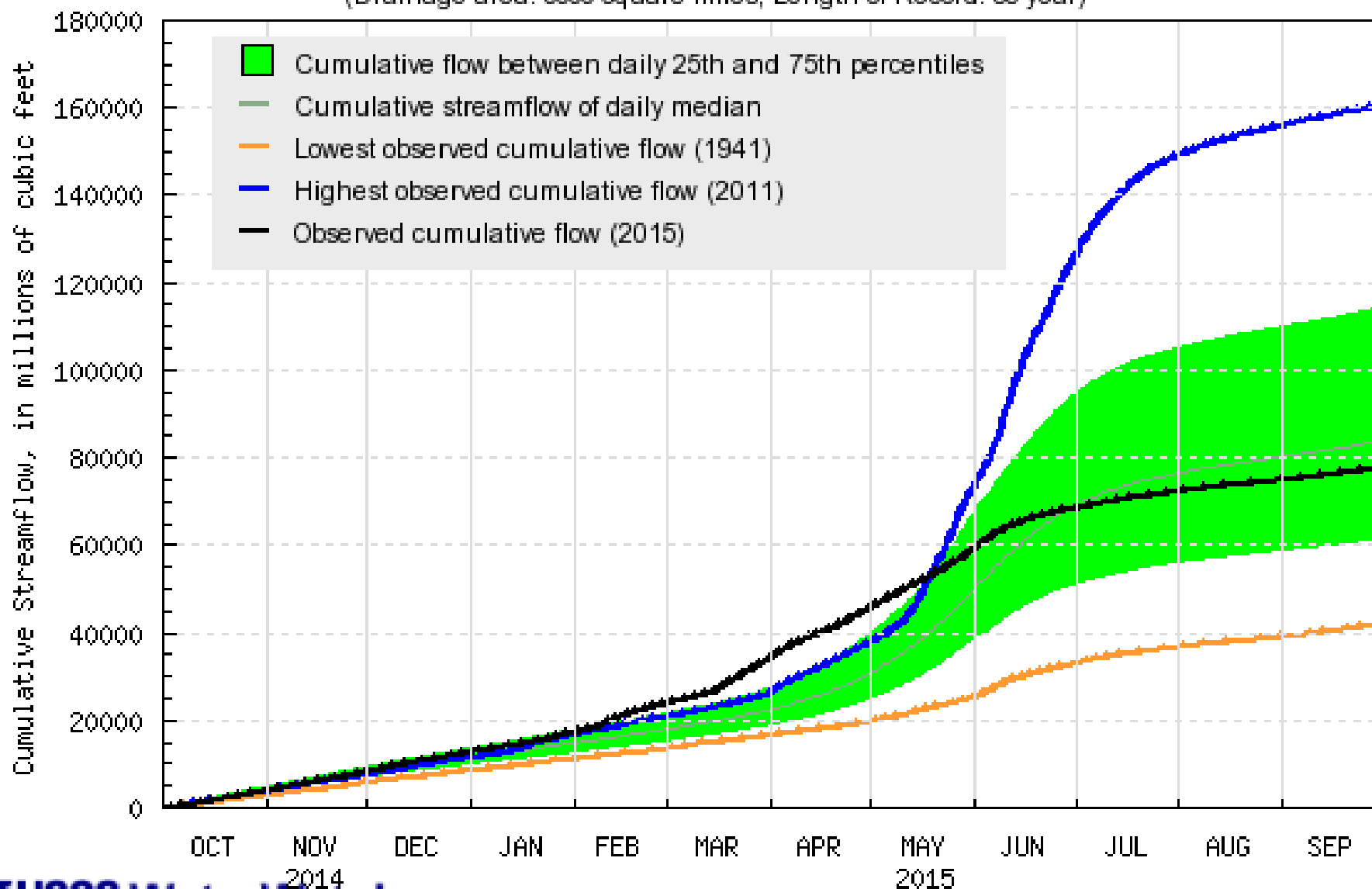


USGS 12340500 Clark Fork above Missoula MT  
(Drainage Area: 5999 square miles, Length of Record: 85 years)

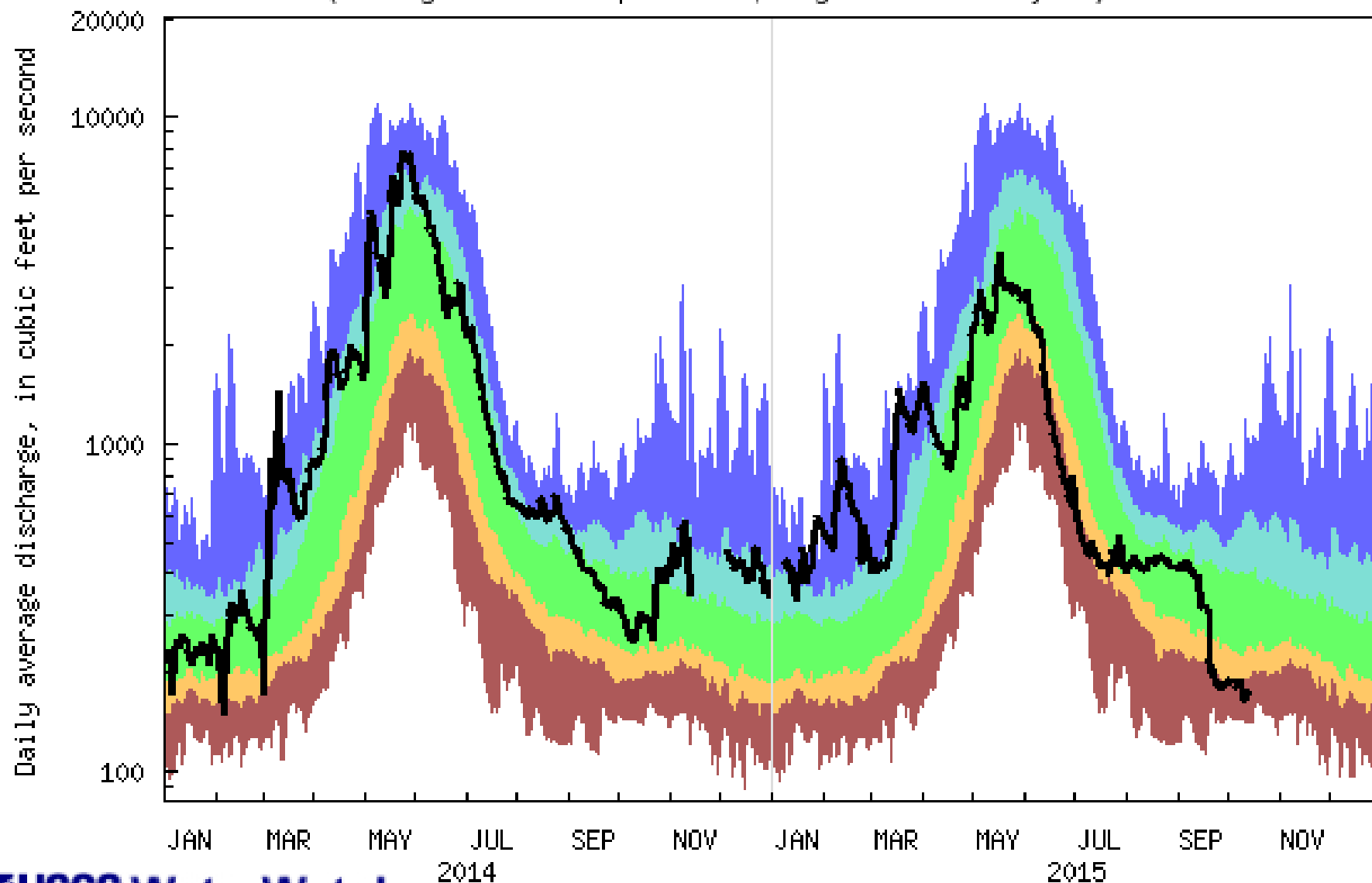


Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 12340500 Clark Fork above Missoula MT  
(Drainage area: 5999 square miles, Length of Record: 85 year)



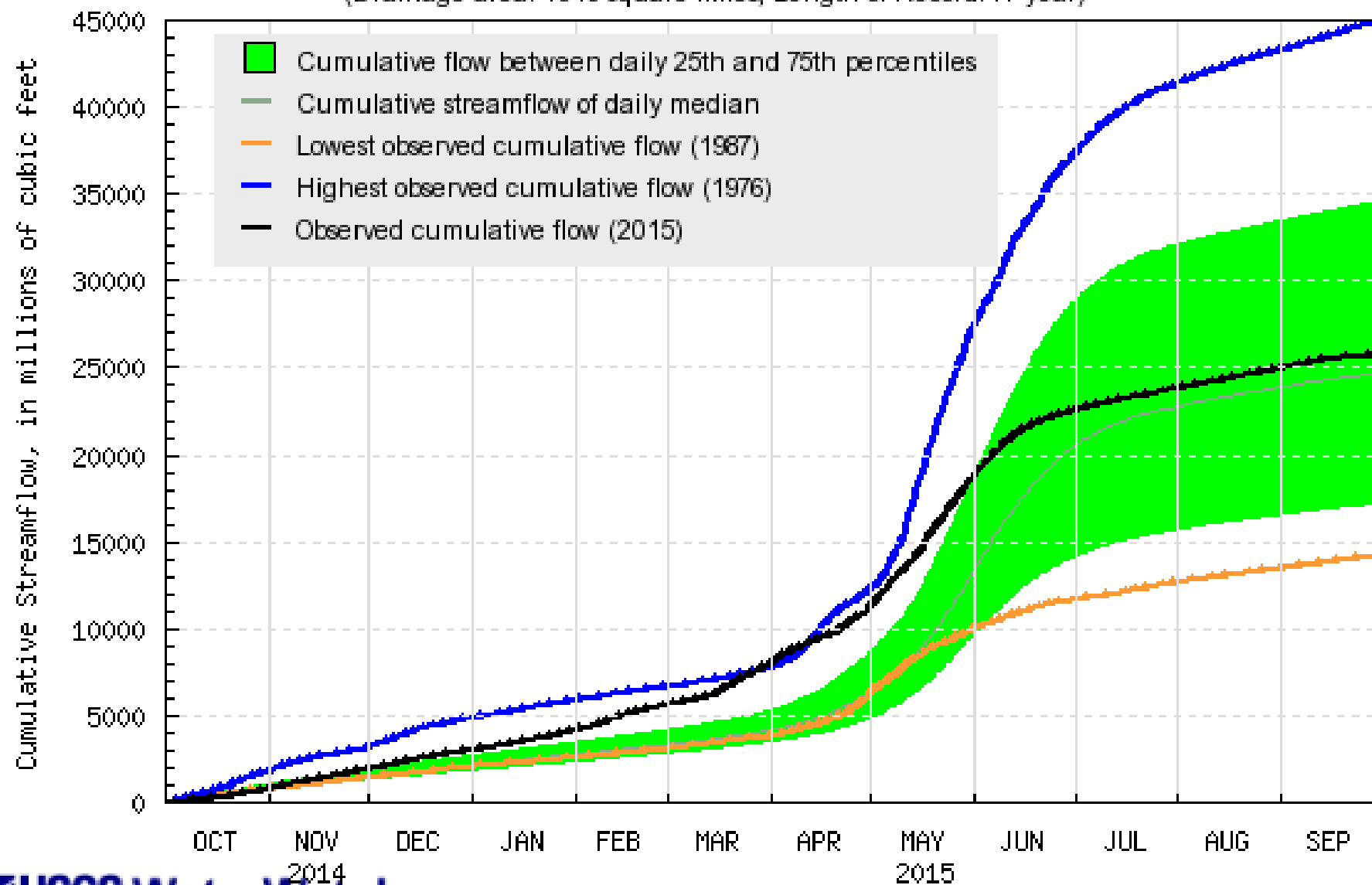
USGS 12344000 Bitterroot River near Darby MT  
(Drainage Area: 1049 square miles, Length of Record: 77 years)



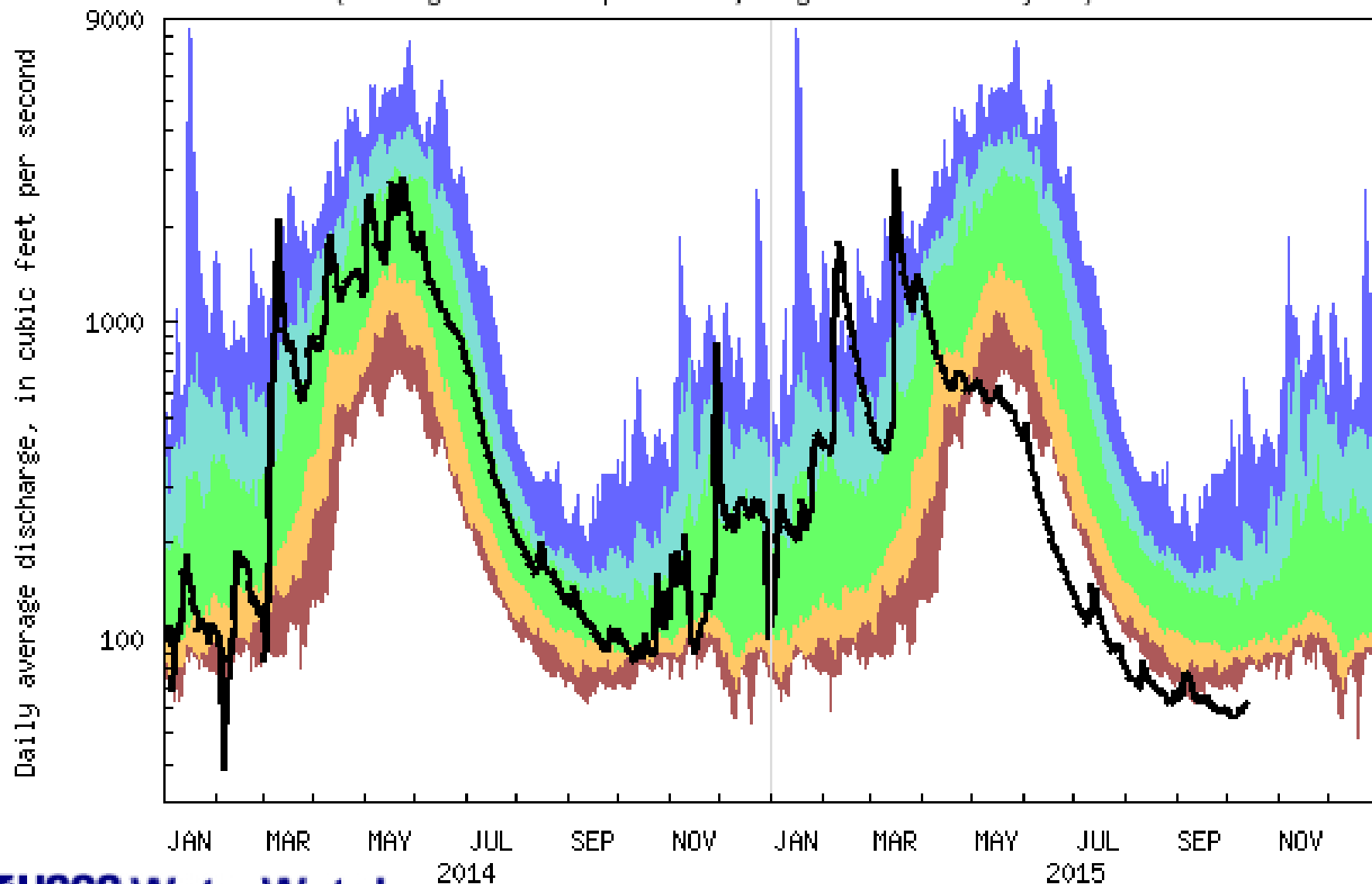
Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	









USGS 12344000 Bitterroot River near Darby MT  
(Drainage area: 1049 square miles, Length of Record: 77 year)

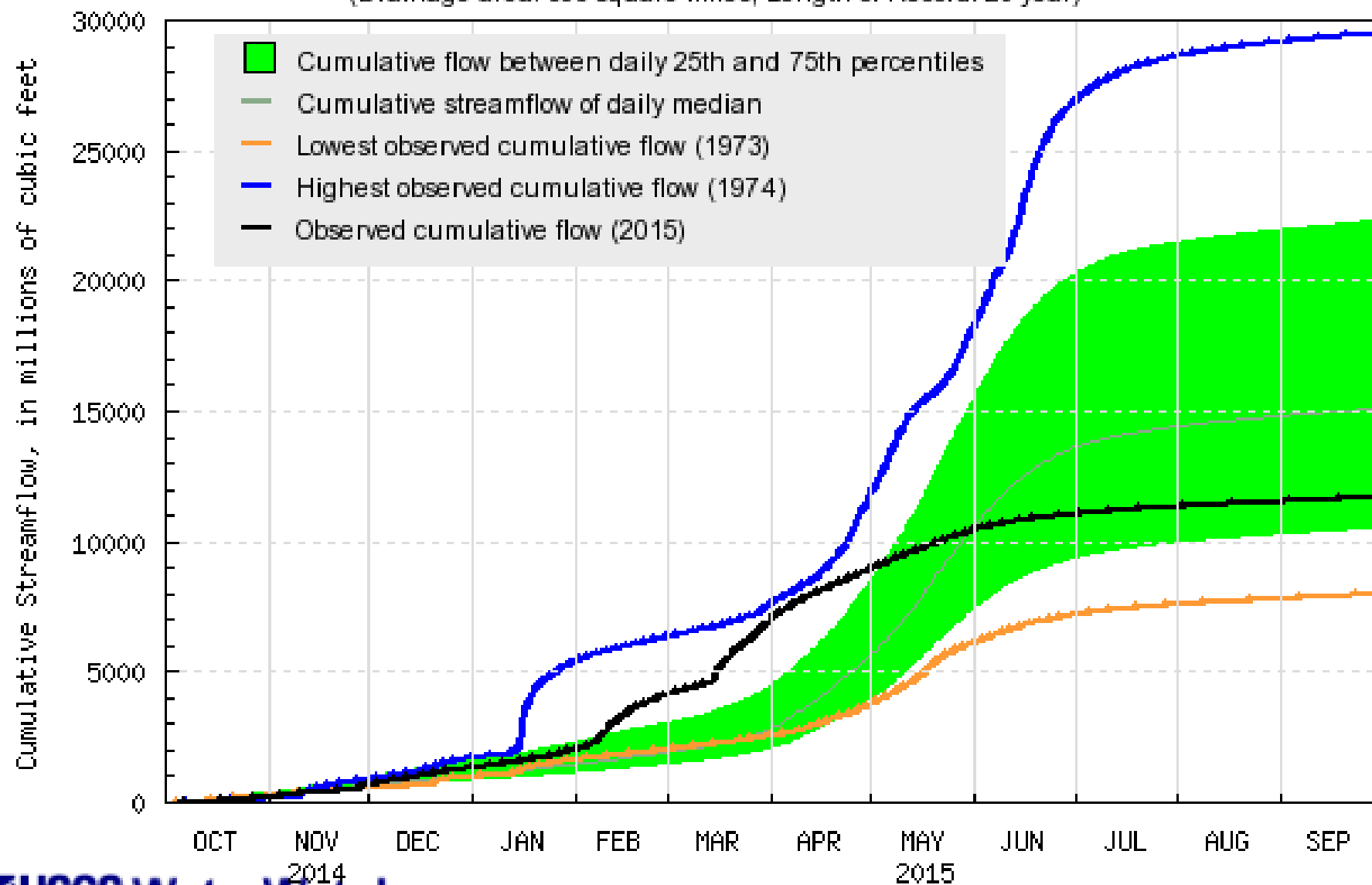


USGS 12354000 St. Regis River near St. Regis, MT  
(Drainage Area: 303 square miles, Length of Record: 104 years)

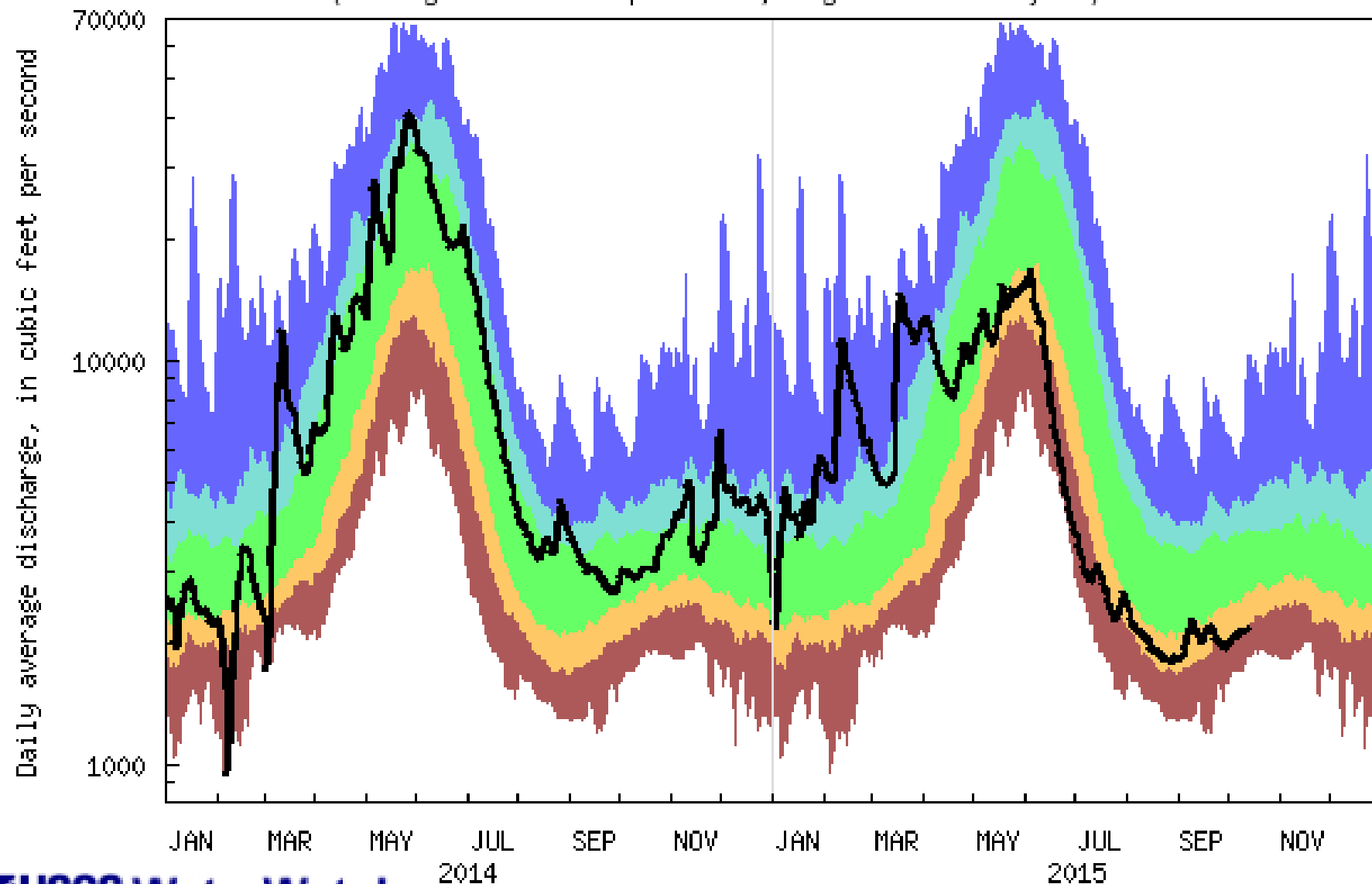


Explanation - Percentile classes					
					
lowest- 10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile -highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 12354000 St. Regis River near St. Regis, MT  
(Drainage area: 303 square miles, Length of Record: 29 year)

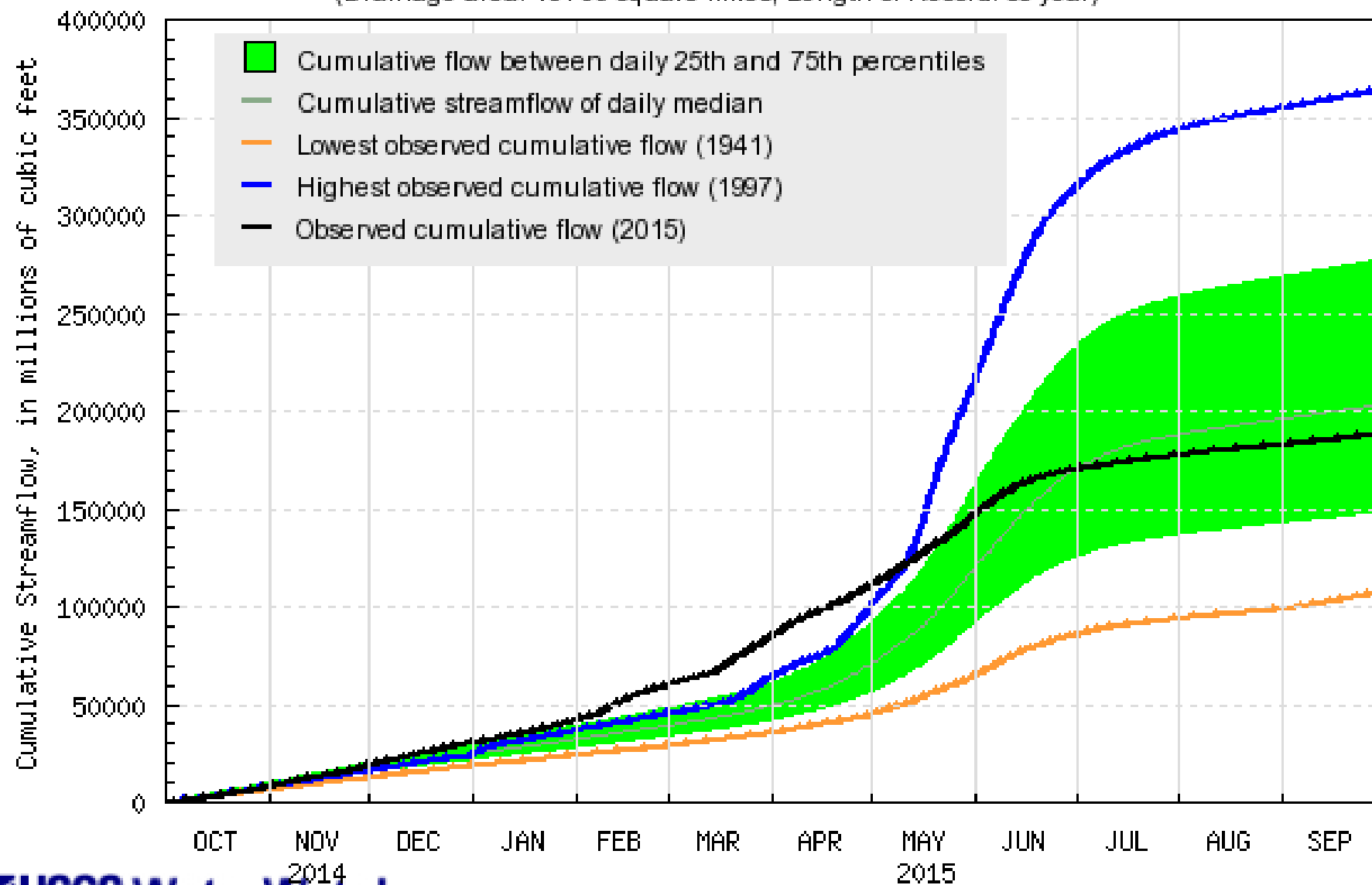


USGS 12354500 Clark Fork at St. Regis MT  
(Drainage Area: 10709 square miles, Length of Record: 85 years)



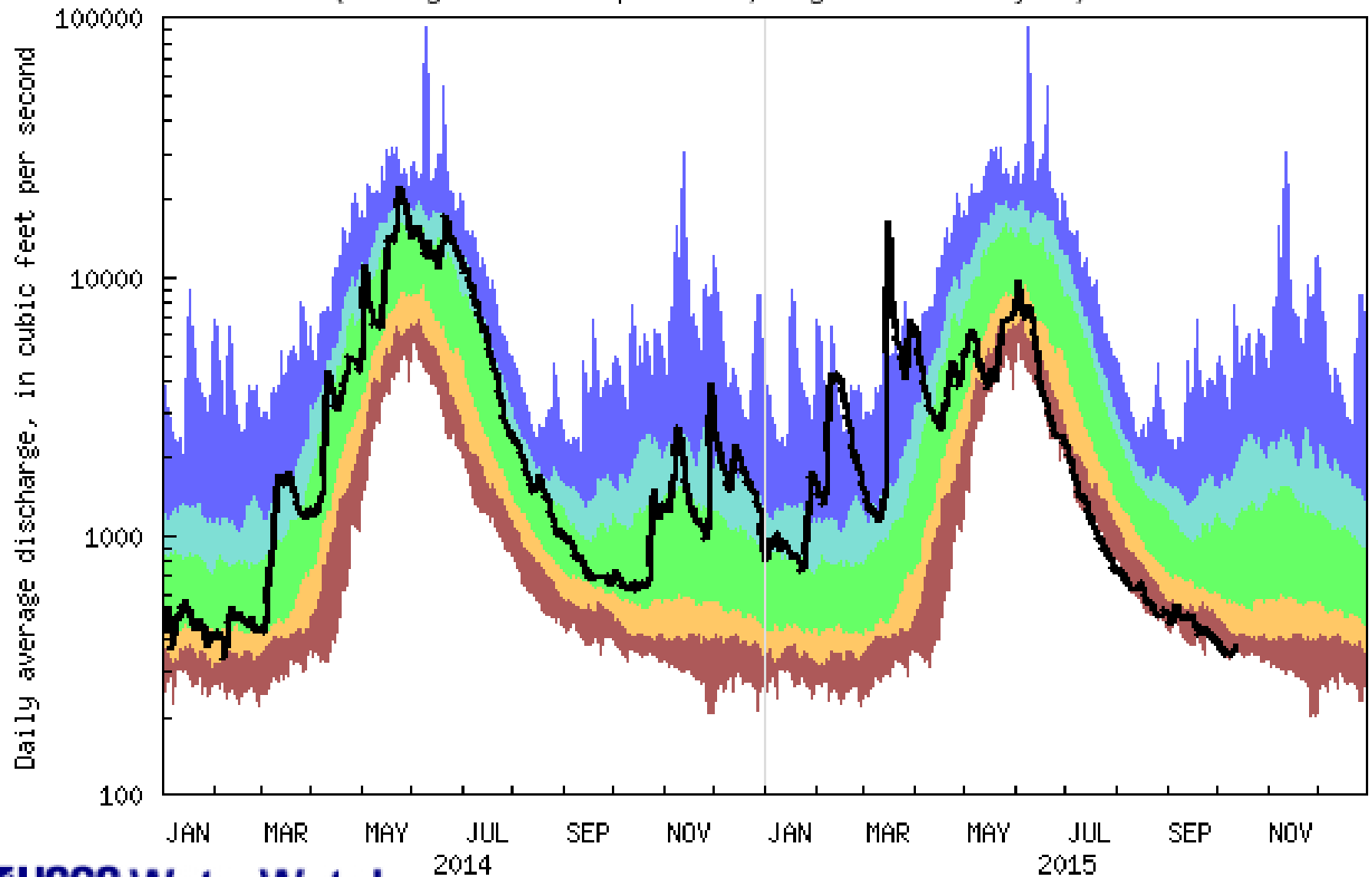
Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 12354500 Clark Fork at St. Regis MT  
(Drainage area: 10709 square miles, Length of Record: 85 year)



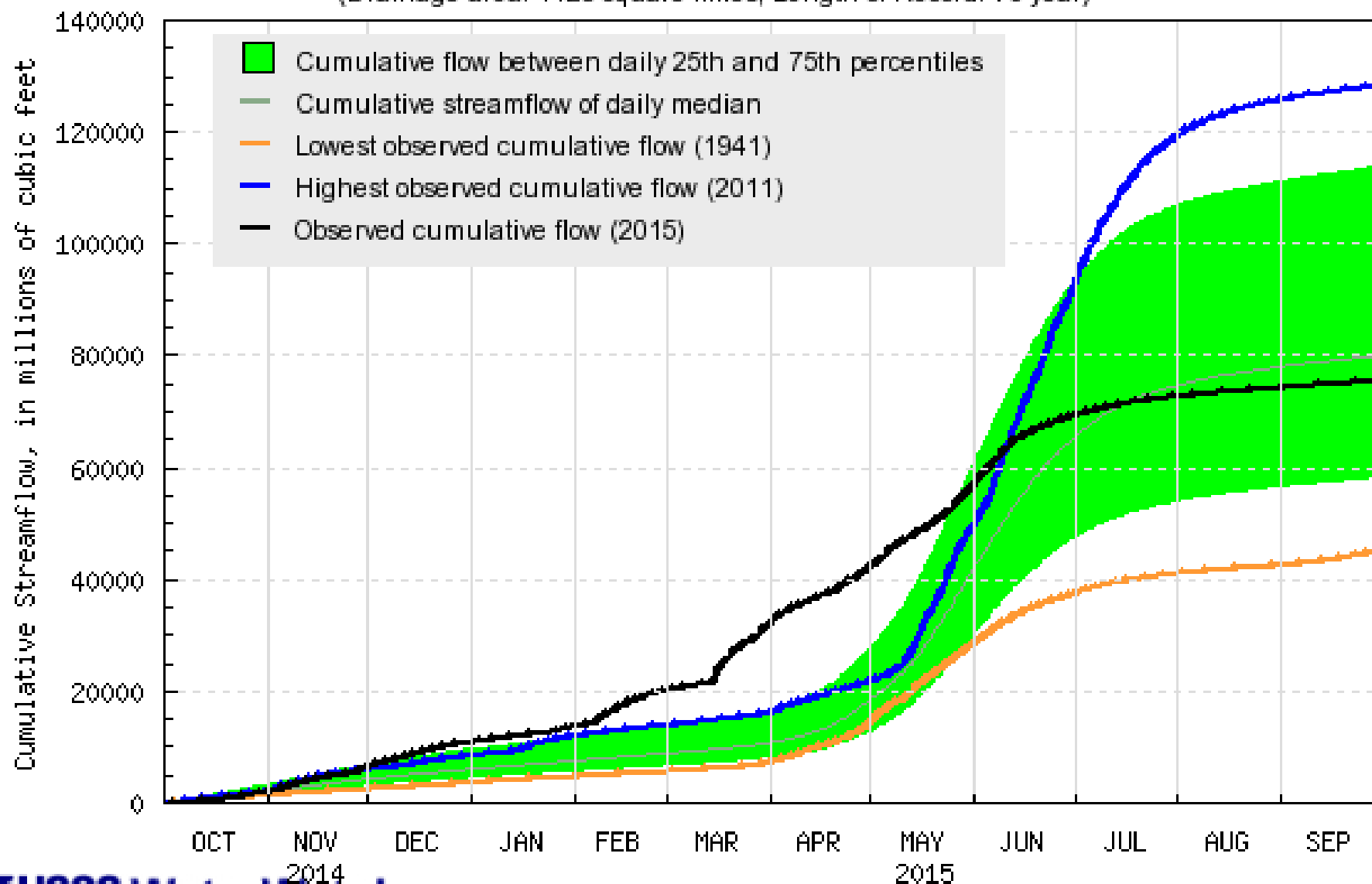


USGS 12358500 M F Flathead River near West Glacier MT  
(Drainage Area: 1128 square miles, Length of Record: 75 years)

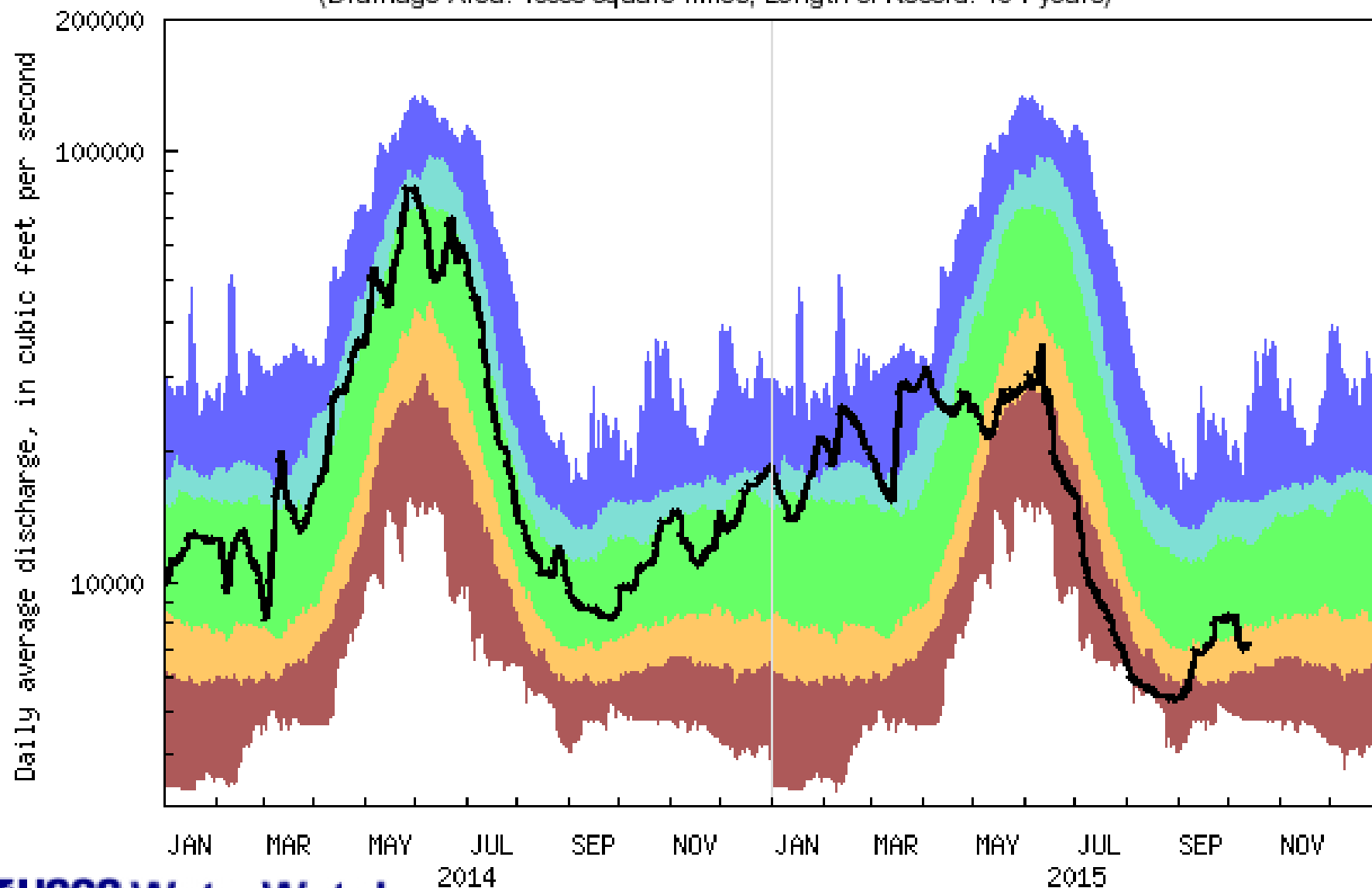


Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 1236500 M F Flathead River near West Glacier MT  
(Drainage area: 1128 square miles, Length of Record: 75 year)

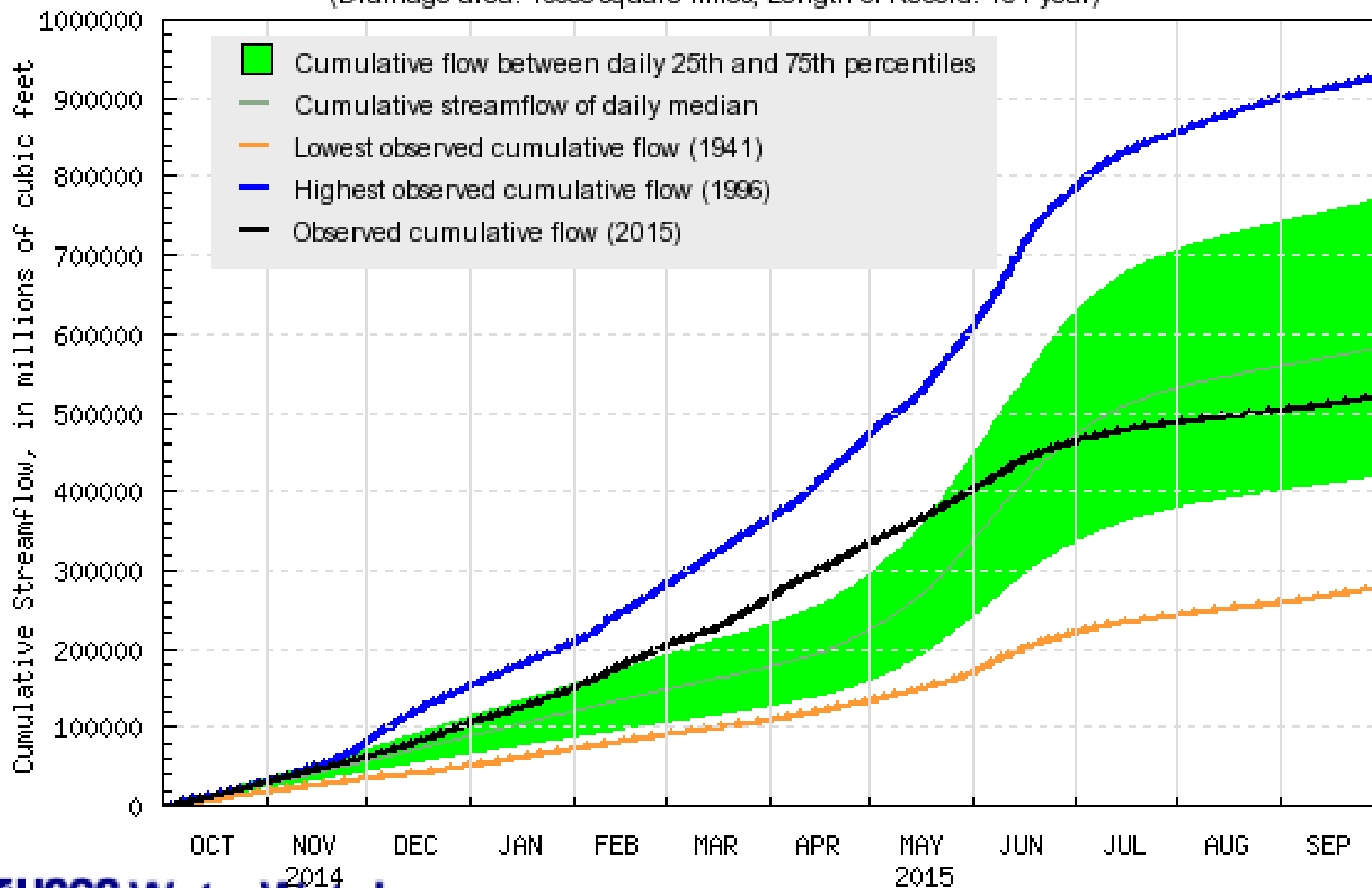


USGS 12389000 ClarkFork near Plains MT  
(Drainage Area: 19958 square miles, Length of Record: 104 years)

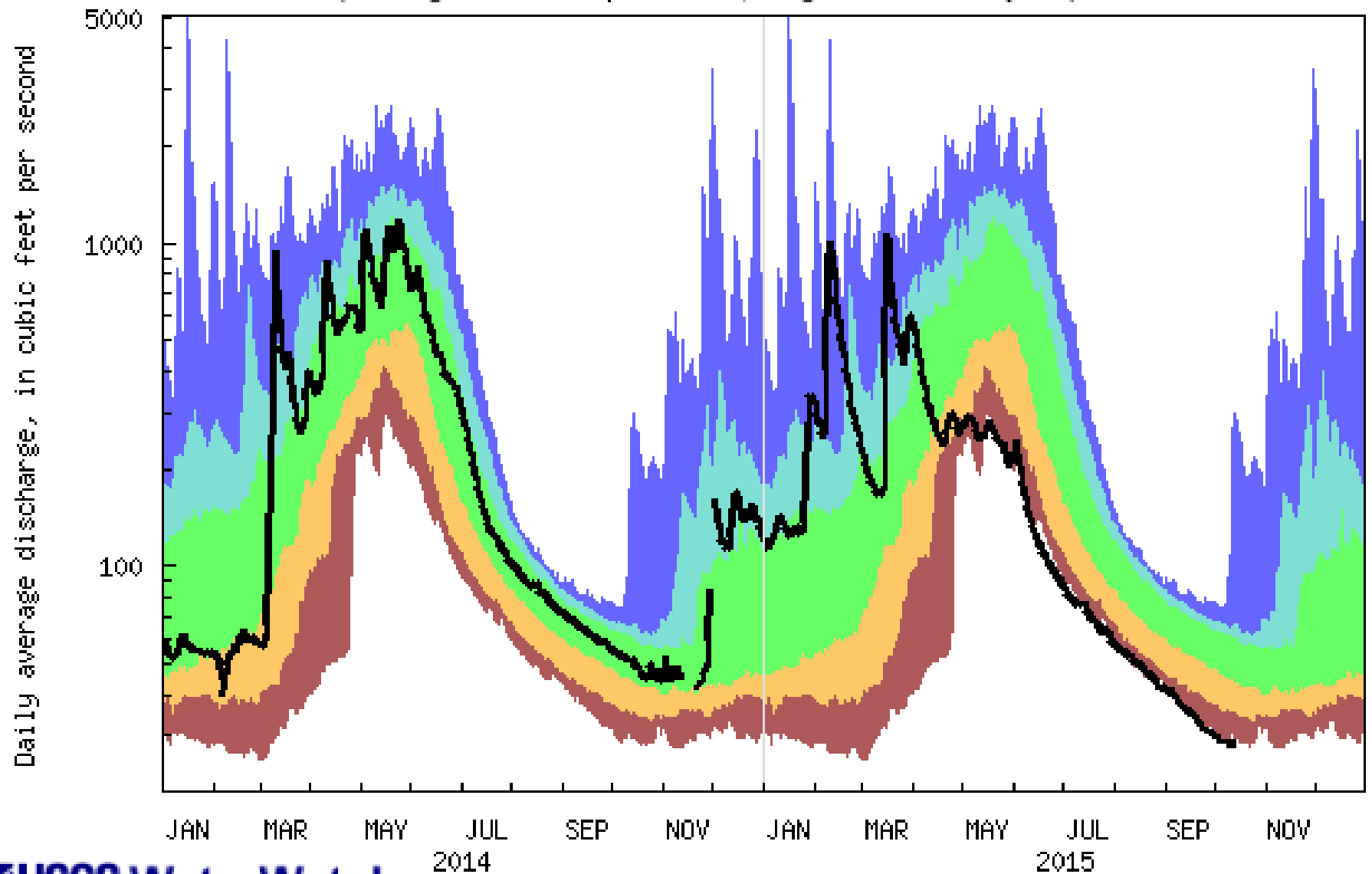


Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS 12389000 Clark Fork near Plains MT  
(Drainage area: 19958 square miles, Length of Record: 104 year)



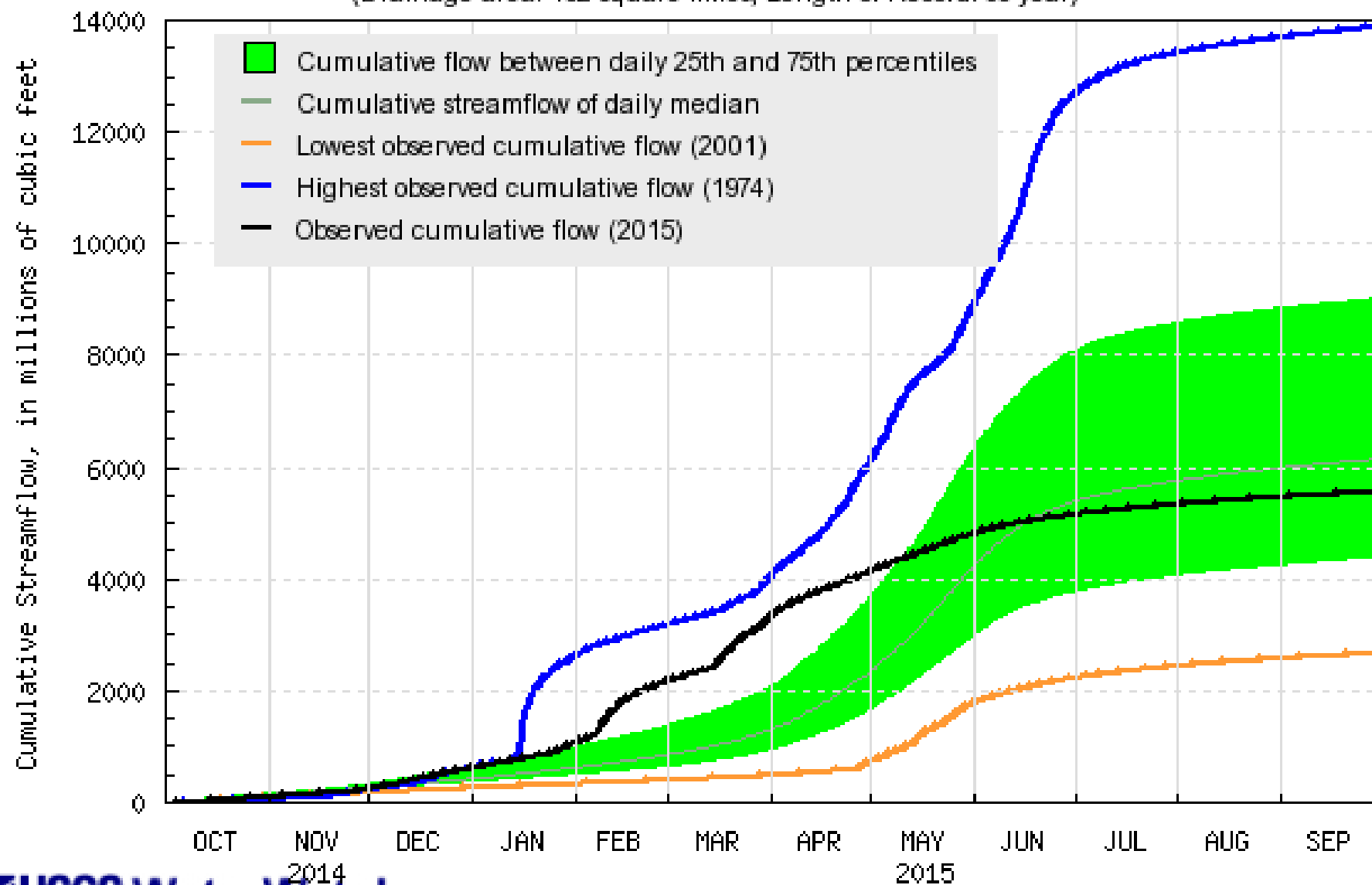
USGS 12390700 Prospect Creek at Thompson Falls MT  
(Drainage Area: 182 square miles, Length of Record: 58 years)



Explanation - Percentile classes					
lowest-10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	



USGS 12390700 Prospect Creek at Thompson Falls MT  
(Drainage area: 182 square miles, Length of Record: 58 year)





USGS Home Page: <http://usgs.gov>

NwisWeb: <http://water.usgs.gov/mt/nwis>

Access to streamflow (realtime and historical), water quality,  
and ground water information.

Montana District Home Page: <http://mt.usgs.gov>

Montana Current Streamflow Conditions